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> From the Editor's Desk
"*****"

"Saying it like it is!"

Equal Justice for ALL?

Its been a wild week in the world of news media. Ol' Judge Ito is apparently getting ready to gag the press even further in the "name" of judicial fairness. IMHO, he's been undeniably PRO prosecution from day one. Seems kinda odd that he simply has to try to silence the press by barring them from "his" courtroom. Then we have the BOOK, now made infamous by Ito's emotional reactions, that seemingly "tells all". Ito hit the emotional panic button over The Book being circulated. He wrote to just about every media agency in the country making a futile attempt at stifling the reports and planned interviews of the book's author. Is Judge Ito a serious and capable professional who is able to rise to the level of the Simpson case or, is he a purposely appointed token of racial equality being indirectly victimized by an inept Los Angeles Judicial System? Obviously to many observers, its time to consider his replacement with an individual whose judicial qualifications far outweigh any possibilities of racial favoritism being allowed to cloud these Constitutionally important issues.

This particular case, the O.J. Simpson Murder Trial, is undoubtedly overwhelming for Ito. As a matter of fact, every responsible jurist in the country is deeply concerned that certain of Ito's "decisions" in this case will set very dangerous and highly questionable precedents that'll be argued in all levels of the courts well into the next decade.

Judge Ito is NOT, by any stretch of the imagination, bigger or more powerful than the Constitution of The United States of America. Yet it appears that Ito and the LA DA's office offers every indication that they feel "they are" by their most recent actions. The entire Judicial Conclave "out there" didn't learn a bit about tact and professionalism from the Rodney King affair. They have learned neither humility, respect for the ability of the American public to see right through a ruse, or attempted to correct the obvious and blatant inside track between the DA's office, the LA Police department, the Courts and favorites in the LA Press.

It seems to be "the order of the day" in Los Angeles for the authorities to proceed as "they see fit" regardless of the ultimate consequences not only for LA but for the entire country. The bottom line; if LA can't handle the case and it seems they cannot. (Ito & the Prosecution are far too emotional and seemingly politically motivated) It should then be placed in the Federal Court System. I'm willing to wager the Simpson Case will eventually be heard in Federal Court. Ito simply has to go. This case is far bigger than he is at this time.

While the defense team is extending every effort at being graciously agreeable with Ito, its obvious to even the casual bystander that Ito is becoming their greatest ally. Ito's ever so consistent blunders in clobbering the first amendment has provided the defense team with at least a dozen different appeal opportunities. That's our opinion. What's your opinion on these matters?

In another time and place....

A recent Computer Chronicles Show had an Apple's Risc based Power PC "66" prominently spotlighted. It was a very curious show in that there

were no Microsoft, IBM or Intel representatives present. Yet... they went on the air with a "lofty" effort to compare a Compaq Pentium 66 to the Apple PPC 66. Of course, they were careful to point out the two machines had the same amount of memory 16mb, the same secondary cache and that the machines were "equals" in most every way. They did however point out the fact that the Compaq had a Windows Accelerator video card in it. Now the "catch". You knew that was coming. <g>

The most important point of all the "points" made was conveniently glossed over as in _not made mention of at all_. The compared costs of both machines was obviously missing from this "less than eloquent" comparison of two totally different 66mhz machines. In fact, 66 mhz was really the only thing that came close to "equal". The reps from Apple spoke in warm glowing terms of PPC 66 and made it an obvious point to indicate the tasking slowness of the Compaq Pentium 66 when it was performing the same tasks as the Apple PPC 66. They (the Apple Reps) actually "boasted" of the "wonderful" way the PPC66 ran the emulator of MS Windows as an SX25!! (the best PPC can do)

In a quick excursion through a few mail order catalogs, it was found that.. conservatively speaking, the amount of DOLLARS spent by "Joe Consumer" for a 66mhz 16mb fully equipped Apple PPC would have easily put Joe into a _90mhz Pentium_ that would have been comparably equipped. But this "little, glaring fact" was never pointed out. In fact, it should be added.. "Joe Consumer" would have had some money left over to take the wife out to dinner.

So.. you see, its not always what you see or hear that are the real facts. It can, in many instances, be what you do not hear or see that holds the entire story in its true perspective and proper balance. The "comparison" exhibited on Computer Chronicles was, in this reporter's humble opinion, disheartening and less than candid. One thing is was ... it was not accurately informative. The Price/Performance break was way out of line. Obviously slanted to trash the Compaq and lavishly bestow amazement and wonder upon the Apple PPC. What a way to win consumer confidence and influence future sales. If this is the tack Apple is taking... they've got some real navigation yet to do.

Thanks for your support,

Ralph...

ps; Be sure to check out the info about Hewlett Packard's new "Three in One" Printer elsewhere in this issue. Printer-Copier-Fax!!

Of Special Note:

STReport will be branching out further to Internet's userbase in the very near future. We've received numerous requests to receive STReport from a wide variety of Internet addresses. As a result, we're putting together an Internet distribution/mailling list for those who wish to receive STReport on a regular basis, and we'll UUENCODE each issue and mail it to you.

If you're interested in being added to our mailing list, please, send your requests to either "dpj@delphi.com" or, RMARIANO@DELPHI.COM. Look for mailings to begin by October first. We are also considering a number of Internet ftp sites in which to post our issues for as well. Whatever we can do to make STReport available to you. we'll try it!

STReport's Staff

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Ralph F. Mariano

Lloyd E. Pulley, Editor, Current Affairs

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The Staff & Editors

> STR INDUSTRY REPORT

LATE BREAKING INDUSTRY-WIDE NEWS

IBM/POWER-PC/PC SECTION (I)
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Computer Products Update - CPU Report

Weekly Happenings in the Computer World

Issue #43

Compiled by: Lloyd E. Pulley, Sr.

***** General Computer News *****

** IBM Eyes Underwriting Apple Work **

There is speculation of a proposal for IBM to underwrite massive costs of a new alliance with Apple Computer Inc. Reports say the deal calls for IBM to gain rights to the Macintosh operating system "in return for funding an effort that could easily cost Big Blue well over \$1 billion."

IBM is considering the bold plan as part of an urgent effort to salvage its faltering PowerPC strategy and form a broad alliance with Apple aimed at developing a common hardware platform that would run both Apple and IBM software programs.

One unnamed industry executive close to Apple said that, at the least, IBM has agreed to provide Apple with a substantial sum to defray the estimated \$40 million to \$60 million cost of modifying the Mac system to run on IBM's PowerPC design.

**** NEC Offers 'All-in-One' PCs ****

"All-in-one" personal computers - integrating a TV tuner, CD-ROM, fax and Windows software - have been introduced in Tokyo by Japan's NEC Corp. NEC Vice President Tomoo Miyawaki is quoted as saying, "The product is NEC's first step towards moving into multimedia beyond the PC market."

Reports say the "98 MULTi CanBe" offers electronic images such as TV, photo CD and digital books on its 15-inch color display, and is equipped with stereo speakers. The series comes in six models, with the highest end model incorporating a Pentium processor. Miyawaki hopes to sell 400,000 units in the first year.

**** Mindscape Acquires SSI ****

Home software publisher Mindscape Inc. says it has acquired Strategic Simulations Inc. for undisclosed terms. SSI will become a Mindscape, subsidiary. SSI's management will remain in place.

SSI is a privately- owned developer of computer war games, sports simulations, and fantasy role-playing games for personal computers, on-line services and video game systems.

**** Apple Boosts Mac Production ****

Apple Computer Inc. says it has boosted Macintosh production in order to keep up with increased customer demand.

"The tremendous growth in demand for our Macintosh computers means we are producing more computers per day than any time in the past," says Tom Foyer financial controller for Apple's Fountain, Colo. facility. "We are adjusting the work schedules by adding weekend shifts to meet the increased demand."

The Fountain facility is currently producing over 1 million computers annually.

**** Intel Making DX2-Pentium Upgrade ****

Work is under way at Intel Corp. on a central processing unit that will allow people with old DX2-based PCs to upgrade them to be powerful as Pentium-based computers.

Intel officials are quoted as saying consumers who buy the so-called Pentium overdrive chip can upgrade their computers at about a fifth to a fourth the cost of buying a whole new Pentium-based personal computer.

An engineering director at Intel said, "it has twice the temporary storage of a Pentium or four times the temporary storage of a DX2-based computer."

**** Modem Makers Set Merger ****

U.S. Robotics Inc. and Megahertz Holding Corp. say they have signed a definitive merger agreement. The stock-swap transaction has been approved

by both companies' boards, and is subject to shareholder approval and regulatory clearance.

U.S. Robotics manufactures modems and other desktop and data center communications systems and products. Megahertz is a provider of mobile communications solutions, including PCMCIA cellular data/fax modems.

**** AST Introduces Holiday Line ****

AST Research Inc. is rolling out its holiday line of new PCs this week, like its competitors, is including CD-ROM drives in all consumer-oriented machines.

The company also has created its first models with a built-in monitor similar to Apple Computer Inc.'s original Macintosh.

Dennis Cox, AST's marketing director for consumer products, said the company is offering a mix of PCs based on '486 microprocessors made by Cyrix Corp. and Pentium chips by Intel Corp.

AST also:

- :- Introduced new server computers for networks of PCs in business and government offices. The new machines, powered by Pentium chips, are configured in stand-alone and rack-mounted versions.

- :- Announced an alliance with Ziff-Davis Interactive to provide a CD-ROM-based library of information and documents for fixing PCs and computer networks.

**** Micron Takes Control of Zeos ****

Control of computer maker Zeos International Ltd. has been acquired by Micron Technology Inc. in a transaction valued at about \$405 million.

After the merger is complete, Micron Technology will own 79% of Zeos, the Micron subsidiaries' employees will own about 10% of Zeos and Zeos's current shareholders will own about 11%.

**** PowerPC 620 CPU Introduced ****

IBM Corp. and Motorola Inc. say they have achieved development and fabrication of the PowerPC 620 microprocessor.

The PowerPC 620 is the first 64-bit implementation of the PowerPC architecture. The companies note that the microprocessor is software compatible with current 32-bit applications and extendible to future 64-bit applications. The PowerPC 620 is designed to be the volume price/performance leader for server and high-end workstations.

The PowerPC 620 provides multiprocessing, numerically intensive computing and floating-point features. The device -- like other PowerPC microprocessors jointly designed by Apple, IBM and Motorola -- are based on a Reduced Instruction Set Computing (RISC) architecture. The PowerPC 620 at 133MHz achieves an estimated SPECint92 No. rating of 225 and an estimated SPECfp92 No. rating of 300. It also has a design frequency of 133MHz to 150MHz.

The PowerPC 620 is the fourth chip produced by the Somerset Design Center in approximately two years and is the first chip in a line of server and high- end workstation microprocessors within the PowerPC family.

While the PowerPC 620 completes the alliance's initial wave of PowerPC microprocessors, Somerset will continue to enhance existing lines and also target new markets by developing new implementations of the PowerPC architecture.

**** AMD Launches New RISC Chip ****

Advanced Micro Devices announced this week it is launching its K86 chip, a fifth-generation, Windows-compatible RISC microprocessor.

The new chip can execute four instructions per clock cycle, which is twice the capability of rival Intel Corp.'s Pentium processor. AMD said last week it would destroy its inventory of AM486 chips after a court upheld Intel's exclusive right to the microcode contained in the chips.

"The initial product of AMD's K86 family, code-named K5, is an AMD-originated, true superscalar RISC microprocessor," the company said.

Pricing and availability will be announced later.

**** Mosaic Comm to Release Software ****

Mosaic Communications Corp., formed by developers of the Internet's popular Mosaic software, is expected to release at no charge its own version of the program in a bid to establish it as a standard for navigating parts of Internet.

Marc Andreessen, who started MCC with Silicon Graphics Inc. founder James Clark, said "We want as many people to use the software as possible."

Mosaic, which provides a graphical interface for navigating Internet's World Wide Web, already is freely available on the network. Sandberg adds, "It has become so popular -- about 70,000 Internet users download it monthly -- that more than a dozen software companies have licensed the university-developed software to enhance it for commercial use."

Andreessen said his company will give users a free version of its Mosaic Netscape client software because "that's not where the money is anyway," adding MCC plans to sell the server software to companies seeking to be suppliers of information and goods on the network.

Andreessen estimated Mosaic Netscape is about 10 times faster than any current version of Mosaic. To run Mosaic, users must have a special "SLIP" or "PPP" connection, which only some Internet access providers offer and which typically costs more than \$40 a month.

"Even so," says Sandberg, "the software can be slow to access information -- sometimes taking several minutes to download complex graphics files. Only users with faster connections, such as corporations and universities, can receive information quickly."

Mosaic was developed by Andreessen and others two years ago at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois. Swamped with interest, NCSA licensed the software company Spyglass Inc. to handle all relicensing.

Andreessen, who has since hired from NCSA five other programmers of the original Mosaic, says his company's version has "been completely rewritten from scratch" and "doesn't contain a line" of the original code.

**** OCR Makers Set to Merge ****

Caere Corp., a leading maker of optical character recognition (OCR) products, says it has agreed to acquire competitor Calera Recognition Systems Inc.

The companies expect the merger to be completed during the first quarter of 1995, subject to a review by the Securities and Exchange Commission and shareholder approval.

The companies had combined revenues of \$48.3 million during the 1993 calendar year. Current plans call for Caere to market and support all major products of both companies and continue existing sales and marketing programs.

**** CompuServe to Show FTP Interface ****

CompuServe Inc. this week is set to demonstrate a new interface it has developed that soon will allow members to access millions of files available through the Internet's FTP (File Transfer Protocol) feature.

A statement today from CompuServe's headquarters says the FTP interface, to be demonstrated at PC Expo in Chicago later this week, is part of the company's "Internet made easy" initiative.

"FTP is currently in the final stages of testing and will be generally available to members within four to six weeks," the statement said. "Internet FTP access will complement the more than 500,000 files already available on CompuServe."

The interface also will feature enhanced menus that will help members find files more easily, the statement said, adding, "A window of icons representing popular Internet file downloading sites includes logos illustrating each information source. Members looking for files from these popular sites simply click on the icon and the FTP service presents a list of files available at the site. A member can then view or download the files that are of interest."

**** IBM Promotes Its Brand Names ****

IBM Corp. this week announced a new marketing strategy that emphasizes the IBM brand name in its personal computer line to make it easier for customers to shop for, purchase and own a PC.

Reports are that the computer giant will reduce from nine to four the number of product lines. The remaining brand names -- IBM PC, IBM PC

Server, ThinkPad and Aptiva -- will be promoted in an aggressive television and print advertising campaign.

New products will have fewer and simpler names, a common building-block design, a build-to-order fulfillment system and exclusive preloaded software.

In addition, IBM said it will reduce prices on selected models of ThinkPads and PS/2s by up to 17%.

**** Apple, Lotus Next Takeover Targets? ****

Reports are that Apple Computer Inc. and Lotus Development Corp. are seen as the next potential major targets in a wave of consolidation sweeping the computer software industry.

Recent industry speculation has focused on Apple as a possible target of a buyout or as a participant in a new strategic relationship with IBM Corp.

Lotus, which like Intuit has managed to beat Microsoft in a niche market, has been the topic of widespread industry speculation about its future amid disappointing earnings and rumors of impending layoffs.

Borland also has been mentioned as a possible takeover candidate if it cannot return to profitability within the next six months. However, it's felt that Borland is not an attractive acquisition candidate because of large unknown liabilities from pending lawsuits and other issues.

**** IBM's Earnings Up ****

IBM Corp. this week announced it earned \$710 million in the third quarter, compared to a loss of \$48 million a year ago.

The third quarter profit amounted to \$1.18 per common share, compared to a loss of 12 cents a share last year. Revenues rose 5% to \$15.4 billion, up from \$14.7 billion for the same period a year ago.

While IBM's U.S. revenue growth was a modest 3%, it increased 13% in Europe and 16% in Asia.

**** Tandy's Profits Up 9 Percent ****

Tandy Corp announced this week third quarter profits of \$46.2 million (or 58 cents a share), a 9% increase over profits of \$42.6 million (or 52 cents a share) reported a year ago.

The revenues increased 19% on hefty gains in U.S. retail sales, rising to \$1.12 billion from \$939.9 million. Tandy said sales at its U.S. retail outlets were up 23% in the quarter.

**** Compaq's Profits Up 88 Percent ****

Compaq Computer Corp. this week reported an 88% leap in third quarter profits, earning \$201 million (or 75 cents a share), compared with \$107

million (or 42 cents a share) for the same period a year ago. The revenue for the quarter ended Sept. 30 was \$2.83 billion, up from \$1.75 billion last year.

Compaq led other PC makers in sales growth, unit sales and profitability for the first half of the year and appears to have held on to that title for the third quarter, although a few companies have yet to report their results.

**** Digital's Posts Losses ****

Digital Equipment Corp. this week reported first quarter losses of \$131 million. The losses were less than anticipated and caused Digital's stock to increase.

The loss for the first quarter of the fiscal year amounted to 98 cents a share, compared to a loss of \$154 million (or \$1.14 a share) a year ago. Revenue was up 4 percent to \$3.12 billion for the quarter, compared to \$3.01 billion in 1993.

**** Unisys' Earnings Drop 50 Percent ****

Unisys Corp. announced this week it earned \$42.9 million in the third quarter (or 8 cents a share), a 50% decline from the same period a year ago when the company earned \$84.1 million (or 29 cents a share).

The revenue for the quarter ended Sept. 30 was \$1.78 billion, down from \$1.80 billion last year. The firm's operating income of \$85.5 million, a decrease from the \$135.3 million of a year ago, was hurt by lower sales to government agencies, as well as higher expenses.

**** Info Highway Equals Internet? ****

When asked to define the "information highway," leading corporate information technology users overwhelmingly say "the Internet," according to a survey of attendees at a major technology conference.

A full 76% of the Fortune 1,000 professionals surveyed - representing a cross-section of top executives, sales and marketing professionals and chief information officers - said the information highway is the Internet, while only 16% cited interactive TV/videos on demand.

The poll was conducted at the Technology Management Forum, an annual gathering of information industry experts sponsored by market researcher Forrester Research, which is based in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**** Professor Threatened After E-mail ****

A Texas A&M University professor says he has been targeted with death threats ever since someone broke into his electronic mail account and sent a racist message to about 20,000 computer users in four states via the Internet earlier this week.

Calling it "a digital equivalent of a drive-by shooting," professor Grady Blount said, "My door is locked. We canceled a class last night and one today will be moved to another location."

Blout said his password was used to send hate e-mail Monday to college campuses in Mississippi, Wisconsin, Colorado and Texas.

A&M spokeswoman Mary McQueen said the school determined the unknown intruder sent the message from off campus.

The message, signed 'Crusader,' was similar to a flier produced by the white supremacist National Alliance... It urged sending 'minority parasites packing to fend for themselves,' condemned financing black 'breeding colonies,' and claimed the government funds '80 IQ welfare mothers' and 'Jewish organized crime gangs.'

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> Western Publishing Goodies STR Review
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The Kids' Computing Corner

123 AND ABC WITH HICKORY AND ME
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by Frank Sereno

The first two programs of Western Publishing's new Step Ahead software series for Macintosh and Windows systems feature Hickory, an adorable mouse, and Nat, his firefly friend. Both programs are aimed at children ages three to six years. 123 with Hickory and Me teaches number recognition, sequence and counting. ABC with Hickory and Me teaches the alphabet, sequence, phonics and matching. Windows requirements are a 386sx-20 or greater CPU, Windows 3.1, VGA display of 640 by 480 with 256 colors, four megs of free ram and 5.5 megs of hard drive space. Macintosh requirements were not stated in the literature provided to me. These programs are also available on CD-rom.

123 features two play areas with various activities and difficulty levels. The main screen features Hickory sitting on a mushroom while Nat hovers nearby. On the left side of the screen is a small pond. At the back of the pond is a boulder with numbers which serves as the icon for the parent's screen. The parent can set a code number for access and has the option of whether the quit button will be displayed to the child. This will prevent the child from leaving the game and possibly creating havoc on your system. To the right of the boulder is a large tree with a stop sign hanging from it. The stop sign is the quit icon and the tree is filled with hotspots that trigger amusing animations. A log lays across the pond and that serves as the icon for the counting games. A small boat made from a paper milk carton floats on the pond and it is the icon for games teaching number recognition and sequence. Hotspots in the pond start more animations.

Clicking on the log begins the counting games. The child can choose from three different activities with two skill levels. This screen

features Hickory seated upon a log. As he counts from one to ten, acorns bearing the appropriate numbers will appear. Below those numbers will be three activity icons. A fourth icon is the branch below Hickory. When it is positioned to the left, games are played at the first skill level. Clicking on it will move it to the right and change the game to the more difficult second level. Default mode is the discovery mode which is triggered by a looking glass icon. Children click on the numbered acorns to watch Hickory count that number of moles as they tunnel out onto the meadow. On the first level, the moles are adjacent to one another while on the second level there may be spaces between them.

The next activity is initiated by the 123 icon on the log. In this activity the child counts the animals which appear on the screen and then clicks on the acorn bearing the answer. On the first level, only five or fewer animals will appear. On the second level, up to ten animals will appear. Basic math and subtraction problems are presented when animals are added or removed from the screen and the child is asked for the new number of critters. If a child provides an incorrect answer, Hickory will tell him that the number is too large or too small and then remove several numbers to make finding the answer easier. When the correct answer is given, Hickory will praise the child with enthusiastic adjectives, clapping his paws or giving a wink of an eye.

The final counting exercise involves matching a number of pellets to a number of animals. The child provides the correct answer by clicking on the group of pellets which is the same in number as the animals on the screen. Again, the lower level involves numbers of five or less and the higher level will use numbers up to ten. When the correct answer is given, the animals will eat their food and then leave.

After finishing the counting games, the child can go back to the main screen by clicking on the mushroom in the meadow. Or he can go to the matching and sequencing games by clicking on the milk carton boat in the pond. The first game involves identifying a number by guiding the boat around a pond by clicking and holding the mouse on a location. On the lower level, Hickory shows a picture of the number and all the numbers in the pond will be that number. Clicking on the frog in the pond begins the second level of the exercise. Hickory will only speak the number which he wishes to be found and other numbers will be present in the pond. To add to the difficulty, a frog is swimming along in the pond and he will make the boat spin in circles if he touches it. After the child finds all examples of the target number, Hickory will ask him to rescue the cheese which appears in the pond. After the child has rescued six cheeses, Hickory will recite a poem and then eat the cheeses.

Clicking on the float (or a bobber as my father called it) on Hickory's fishing line will start the sequencing game. Different numbers will appear in the pond the child must collect them in the proper order from smallest to largest. On the lower level, the numbers will be in a consecutive sequence such as one, two, three, and four. Hickory will also show the correct number on his yellow screen. Clicking on the frog takes the child to the more difficult level. The frog will again be swimming around the pond. The numbers will no longer be consecutive such as three, five, seven and ten. In both levels, if the child clicks on the wrong answer, Hickory will announce the number that was found and the correct answer. In both levels, clicking on Hickory will cause him to say which number the child should find next.

123 with Hickory and Me is a well-planned and entertaining program. Because the interface, graphics and other qualities are similar to those

in ABC with Hickory and Me, I will comment on those areas at the end of the overview of ABC.

The main screen for ABC is a kitchen scene. Two play areas are available by clicking on the cheese wedge on the floor and the cuckoo clock on the wall. Other objects are hotspots for short, humorous animations. The cuckoo clock is Hickory's secret hiding place. Inside you will find a red switch for changing between lower and uppercase letters. Three icons represent the activities available in this location. The looking glass starts the explore mode. The child can click on the letters and hear Hickory pronounce the letter, say its letter sound and then say a word starting with that letter. A flashlight is located on the right side of the screen. If the flashlight is on, a picture will be shown of the letter, an object using that letter and the name of the object.

The next game is "Letters" and it is accessed by clicking on the ABC icon. In the easy mode with the flashlight on, Hickory will ask for the child to find a letter, he will pronounce its letter sound and then the letter will be shown on the wall. If the child takes too long to answer or if he makes incorrect answers, letters will be removed until only the correct answer remains. With the flashlight off, the letter will not be shown and the child will have to listen carefully as Hickory asks him to find a letter.

The final activity in the cuckoo clock is "Names" and it is initiated by clicking on the apple icon. On the first level, a picture will be shown on a clock wall of an object with its word and the first letter. Hickory will ask for a letter, pronounce its letter sound and then announce the object in the picture. On the second level, no picture is shown and Hickory asks for the letter and says its letter sound. This is the same as the second level in the "Letters" game. In the Letters and Names activities, correct answers cause a short animation to appear and Hickory will praise the child vocally.

Clicking on the cheese takes the child to two maze games. The maze is the checkerboard pattern of the kitchen's tile floor. The first game asks the child to "pick up" a specific letter. Move the cursor to the location that Hickory should be moved to then hold down the left mouse button to have him walk there. After finding five examples of the letter, the child will be asked to pick up the cheese. After gathering six cheeses, Hickory will recite a poem and then eat the cheese. On the first level, Hickory shows a tablet with the letter and only the correct letter is in the maze. By clicking on the cat icon, the child moves to the second level. On this level the floor is covered with puddles which make it difficult for Hickory to walk. A cat is also moving about the screen trying to catch Hickory.

Clicking on the letters icon starts a game in which children must put the letters in alphabetical order. Below the maze window is the alphabet minus the letters in the maze. On the easy level, the letters are chosen from those that are adjacent in the alphabet. Hickory will show the letter to be chosen on a tablet. On the second level, again the floor will have puddles and the cat will be trying to catch Hickory. This time the letters will not be adjacent in the alphabet and Hickory will put down his tablet. If the child takes too long to find the correct letter, Hickory will tell the child which letter to pick up.

Graphics in these two programs are very good. Animations are smooth and in sync with the sound track. Hickory is drawn very cutely. Bright

colors are used throughout. The sounds are excellent also. All the sounds are distinct. The music is lively and entertaining. The sound effects are used liberally and effectively. The voice acting is quite good with much enthusiasm.

The interface is simple and effective. Only a few icons are present on each screen but these make all activities and levels easily accessible. Hickory provides plenty of verbal encouragement and praise. Hickory utters not a discouraging word. If the child becomes inactive within the program, Hickory will ask about the child's whereabouts and then fall asleep. Directions are announced for each game upon entry and will be repeated by clicking on Hickory. The manuals are short but very informative.

123 and ABC are very fun to play and children should be entertained for many hours. Educational value is good. Both programs could have had more activities but important lessons are learned. These programs are value priced at \$25 or less so it may be a sign of greed to expect more. Some words to the wise: The Step Ahead programs may be difficult to spot right now. I looked for these programs in a Chicago area Wal-Mart. They were located in the Golden Books section of the toy department, sitting along side books with nothing to bring the software to the consumer's attention. These programs are well worth making a concerted effort to find them.

Step Ahead programs come with a 30-day guarantee through which another title can be exchanged or money can be refunded. Technical support is available by telephone, fax and mail. If you have questions or comments, contact the Consumer Relations Department at 1-800-323-3568.

Graphics	9.0
Sounds	10.0
Interface	10.0
Play Value	9.0
Educational Value	8.0
Bang for the Buck	9.0
Average	9.16

Brighter Child Software Receives '94 Innovations Awards
at
International Electronics Show

American Education Publishing's line of educational software is now considered one of the most innovative consumer electronics products of 1994. At the 1994 International Summer Consumer Electronics Show, four Brighter Child software titles won the '94 Innovations Awards. All winning titles were displayed in a special exhibition at the show which took place June 23 through 25 in Chicago. A highly visible brochure with the winning products' descriptions was also distributed at the show.

Members of the software development industry and industry press judged the entries on originality, sound, graphics, audio visual effects, play action, mechanics, user interface, value and usefulness. American Education Publishing received a distinguished engraved plaque for the awards and is now allowed to use the Innovations logo on all of the Brighter Child software packaging. The '94 Innovations Awards were

Additional information about WUGNET books published by IDG can also be found on the Internet at [HTTP://libertynet.org](http://libertynet.org) in the Libertynet marketplace.

WUGNET's role is to communicate windows-based technologies and applications to an international audience through the WUGNET forum on CompuServe, conferences, trade shows, publications, trade books, and various membership interactions. WUGNET offers its members a number of technical support tools and support resources designed to save them time and solve quickly problems.

These support tools include: The Online Windows Help versions of the popular Microsoft Windows 3.1 resource kits and Windows for WorkGroups resource Kits, (available soon) WUGNET System Engineer, a support oriented CompuServe FORUM with a private library for members.

WUGNET's Computing Book Series books are now available by calling 800 WINUSER. Windows 3.1 Connectivity Secrets (Connally, Rorabaugh, Hall and Rezmovic, and Windows 3.1 Configuration Secrets by Valda Hilley and Jim Blakely (published by IDG Books Worldwide) are now available directly from WUGNET for \$39.95 + \$5 shipping.

WUGNET's mission is to:

- * Promote understanding and cooperation among organizations engaged in furthering the progress and application of windows based systems.
- * Provide an international clearing house for information and advancement systems and technology.
- * Conduct conferences and exhibitions for the exchange of information
- * Provide document based information through the publication of a journal, trade and reference books.
- * Provide education for windows based systems

PUBLICATIONS

The Windows Journal newsletter, published bimonthly by WUGNET Publications, is the leading independent technical journal focusing on the Microsoft Windows operating environment. The Journal is a technical resource for consultants, corporate support staff, programmers and power-users of the Windows environment. Its mission is to help corporate support personnel setup, optimize, and maintain Windows workstations, and to provide in-depth technical information for end-users.

The Journal features extracts from the authors of leading books on Windows and keeps readers up to date on the Windows files, drivers, patches, and files found on CompuServe. Written and edited by Windows professionals, the Windows Journal is the only independent international publication focusing on in depth Windows solutions.

The Windows Journal is a user read publication circulated worldwide to approximately 10,000 professionals. Windows Journal readers are expert PC users who have made the move to the Windows environment. They are technically advanced. At least 75% of our readership is actively programming applications in the Windows environment, either through direct use of programming tools, application development environment, or

application customization.

MIS Professionals, Windows Programmers, and power users from industry and government look to The Windows Journal to discover technology advances they can use in developing software products or increasing the value of their current software technology. Through the Windows Journal, the Windows User Group Network acts as an information resource center, making available publications and materials from leading software and hardware vendors, and specialized consultants.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TOOLS and UTILITIES WUGNET'S ELECTRONIC EDITIONS OF THE WINDOWS RESOURCE KITS

The Windows Users Group Network publishes electronic version of the MS Windows 3.1 Resource Kit and Windows for WorkGroups Addendum. These are disk-based hypertext editions available to members of WUGNET. The Windows Resource Kit 3.1 Electronic Edition converts Microsoft's 580-page guide into interactive reference, providing immediate access to Windows 3.1 information. It is designed as to aid technical support professionals (corporate help desks, VARs, systems integrators, resellers, developers, and trainers) in setup, optimizing, and troubleshooting the Windows environment. The files WFW1.ZIP and WFW2.ZIP (Windows for WorkGroups Addendum) can be downloaded directly from private members library 17. When you join WUGNET please request access to this area by sending an email note to Howard Sobel 76702,1356.

SYSTEM ENGINEER 2.0 FOR WINDOWS

New Features and Capabilities Result in the Ultimate Control Panel for Windows Users

Media, PA - The Windows User Group Network (WUGNET) has announced System Engineer version 2.0, its highly acclaimed Windows Configuration tool. This innovative software package allows Windows professionals and power users to fine tune their Windows environments. System Engineer gives the Windows professional a comprehensive set of tools to manage all aspects of Windows' configuration on their workstation, whether standalone or on networks. In addition to its powerful but easy-to-use interface for editing individual sections and statements within Windows configuration files, System Engineer provides a complete librarian for storing, managing and recovering multiple configurations. Changes to any and all INI files or entries are logged in a master file, which creates an audit system that allows users to retrace specific changes made to configuration files, including support for installation and deinstallation of Windows applications and supporting system enhancements.

Unlocking the Windows Environment

System Engineer provides access to every SYSTEM.INI and WIN.INI parameter including:

- * Undocumented parameters for managing memory
- * Undocumented parameters supporting the Windows keyboard interface
- * Network setting options, including Novell Netware specific options
- * Configuration settings for managing all asynchronous communications port

- * Parameters for setting Windows EMS memory and Virtual memory management
- * Parameter settings for Windows operation of disk storage devices
- * Parameter settings supporting DOS applications running under Windows
- * Parameter settings exclusive to Windows standard mode
- * System fonts used by Windows

REAL-TIME INFORMATION MONITORS

This release of System Engineer introduces easy-to-use real-time monitoring facilities for both expert and non-expert Windows users.

- * The Task Monitor provides a real-time data window displaying all active tasks with their task handles.
- * The File I/O Monitor allows users to track what files and devices are currently open, and determine read/write privileges. This also supports monitoring of open data files and Windows supported devices that are shared, protected, or read-only in nature. This information can then be used by general users in determining the optimum files, buffers and cache settings for particular tasks in Windows.
- * The Memory Monitor is not just a viewer, but a comprehensive statistical monitor reporting the memory use of active module components in six specific memory classes including fonts and DLL's. Use the monitor snapshots to analyze application-specific GDI and USER system resource memory heaps, and determine what discardable and non-discardable portions of memory a particular Windows 3.1 module or application is utilizing. New Features in System Engineer 2.0 Solve Windows Most Complex User Issues including

NEW INTERFACE - SUPER CONTROL PANEL AND MORE!

System Engineer's new interface now includes separate panels for all the configuration management tasks in Windows. Windows Setup.exe and Control Panel are incorporated into the interface, with additional tabular windows for SYSTEM, WIN.INI, INFORMATION and BACKUP support. Version 2.0 also supports full drag and drop support with Windows File Manager (or PC Tools for Windows or Norton Desktop), allowing the user to select an INI file, drag it to the SYSTEM ENGINEER icon, and immediately have the INI editor with the INI loaded.

NOW HANDLES COMMUNICATION PORT DEVICE CONTENTION

System Engineer 2.0 now includes OTC Corporation's KINGCOM COM PORT Driver - an enhanced communications port driver and configuration tool enabling System Engineer to manage all data/fax traffic, and eliminate conflicts that develop when multiple applications access the same fax/modem hardware. The Windows COM driver is limited to two active serial devices, but multiple applications may support the active port. For example, when a fax application attempts to access a modem while a terminal communications package is loaded the result is an error message. System Engineer's inclusion of KINGCOM, developed by OTC Corporation, solves this problem. By creating a "virtual" com port driver, users can designate all their software to a specific com port to specific applications.

SE'S ADVANCED CONFIGURATION TOOLS AND FEATURES

The System Engineer INI editing system includes support for archiving, library, backup (full and selected) and restoration for Windows INI files and Windows applications INI files. For example, any INI topic or parameter can include specific comments, deleted, archived into the system engineer archive. The INI Editor archive capability allows the user to select a topic and store it in the active archive. Once archived, the user can selectively restore it to another INI file or use the archived library for network system maintenance of other user INI files. Any modification through the INI editor is also maintained in an active log, providing insurance and complete UNDO support. Users can use the LOG Browser to monitor changes to all INI files made through System Engineer. The System Configuration Backup and Restore support has been expanded to include Windows GRP, AUTOEXEC.BAT

SYSTEM ENGINEER USERS APPLAUD

System Engineer was developed by the WUGNET support staff in 1990. We've helped hundreds of Windows users, both novice and expert since 1988, and incorporated virtually every support feature imaginable into this one product.

"My first reaction to System Engineer was: 'WOW! It's about time!' Finally there is a product that addresses the needs of the systems integrator trying to customize the internals of the Windows environment. System Engineer is a powerful tool for the service and support industry, and is one of those utilities that make you think 'it should have been there in the first place.' I highly recommend System Engineer to anyone who has to deal with diagnosing, configuring, and supporting the Windows 3.xx operating system environment. Mandatory equipment for the support engineer's arsenal". Randall Kennedy

THE WINDOWS USER FORUM ON FORUM ON COMPUSERVE (GO WINUSER)

Windows professionals, from corporate professionals to consultants, communicate in the fastest growing independent technical user forum on CompuServe - The Windows Users Forum (GO WUGNET or GO WINUSER). Members of the organization are also provided with access to a private library containing advance reports on trade shows, technical notes, and product appnotes and reviews.

WUGNET maintains an active private beta testing program where members can sign up on line and test new versions of innovative products. WUGNET works with shareware authors in helping to promote high quality and innovative shareware. THE WUGNET shareware of the week program, makes available to and informs forum members about the hottest applications to be found on CompuServe.

WUGNET has a long history of working very closely with shareware authors and considers them an integral part of the WUGNET community.

THE WINDOWS CONNECTIVITY FORUM (GO WINCON)

NETWORK WORLD NEWSWEEKLY TO SPONSOR WINDOWS CONNECTIVITY FORUM ON COMPUSERVE New 24-Hour, Direct Access WUGNET Forum Designed to Promote User-to-User and Vendor-to-User Exchanges

FRAMINGHAM, Mass.-Network World, the newsweekly of enterprise network computing, has announced its sponsorship of a new CompuServe forum, Windows Connectivity Forum (WINCON), designed to promote user-to-user and

vendor-to-user exchanges of information regarding Windows networking products, applications and issues.

The WINCON Forum on CompuServe will also be complemented by a weekly column in Network World's "Local Networks" section, written by WUGNET's technical staff, aimed at helping NW readers make decisions on all aspects of Windows connectivity.

WINCON, which is conducted by the Windows Users Group Network (WUGNET), went on-line on CompuServe on Monday, Sept. 27. WUGNET has been active on CompuServe since 1988, where it has promoted an exchange of technical information and solutions among Windows users.

"Network World is very pleased to be sponsoring the WINCON forum on CompuServe," said Colin Ungaro, Network World publisher. "Our mission is to empower IS professionals with knowledge they need for advancing enterprise and global networking; WUGNET's WINCON forum will assist that process greatly by involving CompuServe's global on-line community."

"Together, the forum and column will provide users and vendors with a wealth of information, support options and software to ease the job of Windows networking," explains Network World's Editor in Chief John Gallant.

The WINCON forum on CompuServe will provide 24-hour, direct access to technical and product representatives from major networking vendors, along with the latest network drivers, updates and technical notes. Network World's NetAccess software demo library will also be available, as well as access to the Windows Internet Library, the largest library of updated Windows Internet software, tools and add-ons.

"WINCON's missions," says Joel Diamond, WUGNET's technical director, "is to provide users with as much information and assistance as possible in order to maximize their Windows networks and applications. That mission has received a great boost from Network World, which has once again taken the lead in meeting the needs of IS professionals."

To get to the Windows Connectivity Forum on CompuServe, type Go Wincon at any ! prompt. Network World and WUGNET are currently offering a free CompuServe membership sign-up: call 1-800-524-3388.

The Windows Users Group Network is the largest technical association of Windows professionals, with over 8,000 international individual and institutional participants. WUGNET publishes a bimonthly technical newsletter, "The Windows Journal," and members receive electronic editions of Microsoft Windows Resource Kits and value-added resources through WUGNET forums on CompuServe. The group has two best-selling advanced reference handbooks available through IDG books: "Windows Connectivity Secrets" and "Windows Configuration Secrets."

Network World newsweekly, a wholly owned subsidiary of International Data Group (IDG), helps shape the future of network computing in the enterprise by empowering IS professionals with the knowledge to deliver the open applications and infrastructure necessary to meet their evolving needs.

ORIGINS OF THE WINDOWS USERS GROUP NETWORK

Founded in 1988, as an independent organization, WUGNET has positioned itself as an industry wide technical resource, rather than as an

organization committed to any single vendor or groups of vendors.

For five years, the Windows User Group Network has dedicated their efforts to communicating trends and developments, and solutions about the Windows environment on an international level. As a result of the technological changes experienced in the last few years, WUGNET has evolved into an organization which aggressively promotes the interfacing of existing technologies with new state of the art technologies to create intelligent solutions to today's business problems.

ENROLLMENT APPLICATION

There are two levels of enrollment: Individual and Corporate (Group Gov/Academic). The following membership application be used for Fax, Mail or email

Call for Corporate and Group Membership packages.

Name_____

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Windows 3.1 Connectivity Secrets [] 39.95 + \$5 Shipping

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(Pa. Residents add 6% sales tax)

For Overseas shipping costs contact WUGNET HQ

Amount Enclosed _____

Please Charge my Credit Card: AMEX_____ VISA_____

MASTERCARD_____ Card Number:_____

Expiration Date:_____ Signature:_____

Prices quoted in US Dollars

Individual Membership includes: Subscription to Windows Journal, WUGNET System Engineer 2.0 Windows Resource Kits(Windows 3.1 and Windows for Workgroups* (when available next month), access to private data library--(Send request for access to Howard Sobel 76702,1356 once you join).

Individual Rates Overseas: includes shipping South America \$110, Canada \$110, Europe \$140, Pacific \$150

10 Members Program - allows System Engineer and Windows Resource Kit (online edition) to be on a network server with access for 10 users. Includes 5 subscriptions to the Windows Journals.

100 Members Program - allows unlimited use of System Engineer and Windows Resource Kit (online edition) on a single server.

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Direct Membership Enrollment:
800-WIN-USER (1-800-946-8737)

US ROBOTICS SYSOP SUPPORT PROGRAM
=====

Product subject to availability

* European Sysops must now order via our office in France.
The BBS number is +33 20 05 32 41, voice number is
+33 20 19 19 59. Be sure to read their EURODEAL rules as they differ from
USR/USA.

**International version - a separate power supply must be ordered if the
modem is used outside the U.S. or Canada. International power supply is
220 volts; Domestic power supply is 110 volts. At least one (1) power
supply must be ordered with each international modem.

***For detailed information and technical specifications on the above
products, call the U.S. Robotics Technical Support Department at
800-550-7800. International callers can call 1-708-982-5010. You can also
FAX at 708-982-0823 or try our Fax on Demand at 800-762-6163 or
708-982-9061. In Europe call +33 20 19 19 59 or FAX +33 20 05 32 40.

U.S. ROBOTICS SYSOP SUPPORT PROGRAM

General:

This section describes the rules of the U.S. Robotics
SYSOP Program. U.S. Robotics reserves the right to modify or change these
rules at any time.

Scope:

The U.S. Robotics SYSOP Program permits QUALIFIED SYSOPs to purchase
current U.S. Robotics products at a reduced price. The purpose of this
program is to continue the close relationship established many years ago
between U.S. Robotics and the Sysop community. Participants should
recognize that our ability to continue the program is dependent upon the
strong position U.S. Robotics enjoys in the reseller channel, with the
distributors and dealers, VARs, etc. that continue to buy and resell our
products to home and business users around the world. It is our intent to
maintain the integrity of our channel relationships by closely
scrutinizing each SYSOP sale to ensure that we only sell products to
qualified SYSOPs.

Qualifications:

1. The SYSOP states that he/she is NOT in the business of reselling
computer products and/or related peripherals, including modems. Qualified
resellers may take advantage of other programs offered by U.S. Robotics by
calling (800) 342-5877 and asking for the dealer sales representative for
your area. International callers may call 1-708-982-5010.
2. The SYSOP has been operating the bulletin board system for at least
six (6) months and that this activity can be verified by dialing into the
bulletin board system. Typically user logs, activity logs, and local
message bases are a good source for verifying activity.

*** The exception to this rule is as follows:

If you are a registered owner of any of the following software packages US
Robotics automatically waives the 6 month verification portion of the
qualifications. US Robotics is proud to have entered into this agreement
with:

The participating vendors are:

PC Board(Clark Development)	(800)356-1686 Voice Dos (801)261-8976 BBS
Wildcat!(Mustang Software Inc.)	(800)999-9619 Voice Dos (805)873-2400 BBS
TBBS(eSOFT)	(303)699-6565 Voice Dos (303)699-8222 BBS (303)699-6872 FAX
Power Board(NUIQ Software Inc.)	(914)833-3479 Voice Dos (914)833-1479 BBS (914)834-7830 BBS (914)833-3623 FAX
Searchlight	(800)780-LITE Voice Dos (216)631-9285 BBS
Roboboard	(819)682-6670 Voice Dos (819)682-7771 BBS
T.P Board and Front Door	(201)941-1110 Voice Dos
RemoteAccess(Wantree Development)	(800)648-9800 Voice Dos (913)441-0595 BBS
The Major BBS (Galaticomm, Inc.)	(800)328-1128 Voice Dos (305)583-7808 BBS
First Class (SoftArc)	(416)299-4723 Voice Mac(E-Mail) (416)609-2250 BBS
TeleFinder (Spider Island)	(714)669-9260 Voice Mac (714)730-5785 BBS
AmiExpress	Phone to be announced.... Amiga
DLG (TelePro Technologies)	(403)341-7826 Voice Amiga (403)347-3269 BBS
Celerity/Alacrity (Lexicon Computing)	(310)693-9405 BBS Dos
TEAMate (MMB Development Corp)	(310)318-1322 Voice Unix
Vision-X (Eid Youssef)	(613)728-4861 Voice Dos (613)728-5787 BBS (613)728-7959 BBS

3. The SYSOP understands that the number of modems that may be obtained under this program is limited to the number of working, VERIFIABLE data lines. Data lines MUST be dedicated for modem use only and MUST be available 24 hours a day for modem access. Modems purchased under this program MUST be used on one of the stated lines. Furthermore, the SYSOP

- B. The SYSOP understands that once an order is placed, it cannot be changed. If you are uncertain as to the product you want to purchase, you may consult the Information & Text Files file area of this bulletin board for product information. Or, you may call the U.S. Robotics Technical Support Department at (800) 550-7800 or call our Fax on Demand system at 800-762-6163 or 708-982-9061.
- C. Your board will be verified by a U.S. Robotics Online Support Analyst. We MUST be able to connect with your bulletin board to verify board status. In the event that we are uncertain of your board status, you will be notified by a U.S. Robotics representative. We will advise you as best we can as to what you need to provide in order to have your board verified (appropriate logon, copy of phone bill, software registration, etc.). In no case will we verify a board until we are certain that it meets the requirements of the program.
- D. U.S. Robotics will not accept voice phone-in orders.
- E. U. S. Robotics reserves the right to modify, change or cancel this program at any time.
- F. If you have any questions regarding this program, please call (800) 550-7800 for clarification.

ADDENDUM

1. Create a login for U.S. Robotics
2. Ensure no questionnaires or voting is necessary
3. If your logon requires information other than password be sure to include this information on the order.
4. Once this is established logon under the U.S. Robotics ID and look for verifiable proof of six months activity. If you can't find it, odds

- B)- 1 Teac CDRom CD55a 4x Drive
- C)- 1 Mitsumi IDE CDRom Drive
- D)- 1 Archive Viper 250mb SCSI Tape Backup
- E)- 1 Sound Blaster AWE32 Sound Card w 2mb & Roland SCD-15 Daughter Board.
- F)- 1 Maxtor 340Mb SCSI Hard Disk
- G)- 1 Canon IX-4015 SCSI Color Scanner 1200lpi w/ADF
- H)- 1 Fargo Primera Pro Color Printer 600dpi
- I)- 1 Hewlett Packard Laser Jet 4P Printer 600dpi
- J)- MAG Innovision 17F Color Monitor 17" ni
- K)- 1 USRobotics Dual Standard V.34/V.FC/28.8 External Modem
- L)- Adaptec 1542cf SCSI Busmaster card & EZ SCSI Software along with a few other items yet to be made mention of.

THE RE-CONFIGURATION OF THE SYSTEM
AND
SOFTWARE TUNE-UPS

The software setups began with the slight modification of both the Autoexec.Bat and Config.Sys files to finally, the installation of Quarterdeck's excellent memory manager, QEMM 7.5. Which, in our opinion, is the best.

Once the seven backup tapes were restored to the new ZEOS P90 system, the real fun was about to begin. The older system had a Diamond Stealth Pro 2mb Video card. It's drivers had to be removed out of the config files. Then, since the new system has a Diamond Stealth 64 2mb video card, it had to be installed. The first step was to set the Autoexec and config files for the new card. Then, the video setting for WFWG 3.11 had to be set for VGA (generic) until the new video card was properly installed. The installation of the Diamond software was a breeze. Once installed, the improvements over the old card became quite obvious. The Diamond In-Tools control panel was vastly improved (trouble-free changing of resolutions, Zoom functions, desktop switches, viewport switches, all on the fly from anywhere!) Once this minor event was completed, the enhanced 386 configurations were about to be addressed.

Enhanced 386? For a Pentium 90? You bet... even though the name implies something else, the fact is we are talking about pure, unbridled high speed performance. First the Western Digital WDCTRL.386 driver was installed, then the selections for thirty two bit disk and file access were set. The permanent swap file was set at 4mb (easily big enough with 16mb ram) and the 32bD&F was turned on. The 32bF Cache was set to 2mb. A point to be made known here is that once 32b is activated, Smart Drive is disabled when you boot Windows. There is no loss of performance. In fact, it only gets better with 32b F&D access turned on. The Hard Disks all showed 32b F&D access for all partitions.

After the preliminary setups were completed, it was time to optimize

the usage of memory. Yes friends, until such time as Win 95 hits, we are still, unfortunately, "married" to the 640k nightmare. Once booted, a quick check of memory used and available free memory made the 640k barrier painfully obvious. With the various drivers loaded; for the Stealth 64 video card, AWE 32 sound card and twin CD Roms installed and running, the system really needed memory optimization, it had only 505k free.

Quarterdeck's QEMM 7.5 to the rescue! The installation of QEMM 7.5 was begun from within WFWG 3.11. The Quarterdeck "Quickboot" feature was enabled and the installation completed itself with obvious ease. Now, with a fast click of a button and a few moments of sheer amazement..., Quarterdeck's Optimize quickly did it's thing... we were now ready to see the amount of free memory QEMM 7.5 had provided for this system. It was a whopping 646k! Now, we are all set to "doittoit" any way we wish.

Next week; the IDE GB Hard Drives and the CD Roms being installed.

A T T E N T I O N -- A T T E N T I O N -- A T T E N T I O N

FARGO PRIMERA PRO COLOR PRINTERS - 600DPI

For a limited time only; If you wish to have a FREE sample printout sent to you that demonstrates FARGO Primera & Primera Pro SUPERIOR QUALITY 600dpi 24 bit Photo Realistic Color Output, please send a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope [SASE] (business sized envelope please) to:

STReport's Fargo Printout Offer
P.O. Box 6672
Jacksonville, Florida 32205-6155

Folks, the FARGO Primera Pro has GOT to be the best yet. Its far superior to the newest of Color Laser Printers selling for more than three times as much. Its said that ONE Picture is worth a thousand words. Send for this sample now. Guaranteed you will be amazed at the superb quality. (please, allow at least a one week turn-around)

A T T E N T I O N -- A T T E N T I O N -- A T T E N T I O N

:HOW TO GET YOUR OWN GENIE ACCOUNT:

Set your communications software to Half Duplex (or Local Echo)
Call: (with modem) 800-638-8369.
Upon connection type HHH (RETURN after that).
Wait for the U#= prompt.

Type: XTX99587,CPUREPT then, hit RETURN.

Fire up that high-speed modem and head for your favorite GENie Software Library! Effective October 10, 1994, you'll be able to participate in an open beta test, offering access to GENie Services at 9600 bps for as little as \$5.00 per hour.

As a result of an arrangement with Sprint, GENie will be offering 9600 bps access from almost 300 SprintNet locations. Best of all, this high-speed access will not be subject to high-priced surcharges. The normal \$2.00

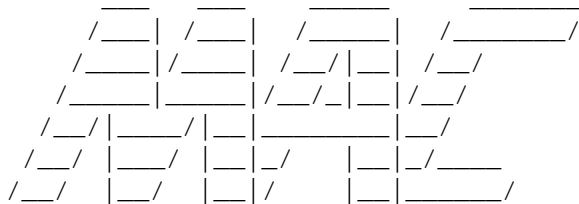
per hour SprintNet surcharge will apply...even at 9600 bps! This open beta test is expected to run through the end of the year.

To find the number of the SprintNet access number nearest you, simply type PHONES at any GENie menu prompt (or use the "Move To Keyword" option in Genie for Windows and type PHONES). Remember, this rate applies only to 9600 bps access via SprintNet. So be sure to choose the access number showing "9600" in the "Baud Rate" column AND "SprintNet" in the "Network" column.

From the "Fine Print" department, please note that the \$2.00 per hour surcharge for SprintNet access is applicable even during your initial four hours of monthly usage.

So, whether you're into downloading software, reading bulletin boards, or accessing databases, it's about to become cheaper to do it faster!

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The Macintosh RoundTable

Managed by SyndiComm

An Official Forum of the International Computer Users Group

*** STReport available in MAC RT ***
ASCII TEXT
for ALL GENie users!

MAC/APPLE SECTION (II)
=====
John Deegan, Editor (Temp)

> SPECIAL NOTICE! STR InfoFile

Call for Contributors:
=====

ARTISTS, ILLUSTRATORS, DESIGNERS!

KPT Power Tools Illustrated Guide
=====

By Nick Clarke
Published by Addison Wesley Publishers Limited

Addison Wesley and author Nick Clarke are current seeking artists, illustrators and graphic designers who have used KPT Power Tools to contribute images to this exiting book.

The book, which is full color through-out will be published in the USA and UK early in 1995. Included with it will be Macintosh CD ROM which is planned to be a showcase the best use of KPT.

We will include your details, contact address and full biography providing you give permission to publish your work. We are also looking to publish the best works inside the book if you could provide us with details on how you created your images using KPT.

So if you want massive exposure and you think you can contribute to this exciting project: Write, Call, EMail us today. Or send your work to the follow address:

Nicky Jaeger, Senior Editor Computing, Addison Wesley Publishers Ltd,
Finchampstead Road, Workingham, Berkshire, UK. RG11 2NZ
Telephone: +44 (0) 734 794000: Telex 846136: Fax: +44 (0) 734 794035:
E-mail: 100020.554@compuserve.com: Applelink: Addiwes.UK.

To contact the author:
Nick Clarke: Telephone: +44 (0) 61 225 7945: E-mail:
74730.1570@compuserve.com or try brox@cix.compulink.co.uk.

Note: Send your work on Macintosh formatted 45Mb Syquest or HD Floppy: All media will be returned back to you.

Here is a brief press release about the book:

Kai's Power Tools: An Illustrated Guide
Nick Clarke

At last a book for KPT power users!

This book will put you in control of KPT, the best-selling plug-in filters for Mac based programs like Photoshop and Painter. If you've only begun to scratch the surface of possible effects with these mind blowing utilities and are eager to explore further 'Kai's Power Tools: An Illustrated Guide' is definitely the book for you.

Since their release in 1992, the KPT Filter set of image processing effects has received critical acclaim from the Macintosh press and the design industry. Their low cost and power user appeal have made them the most successful set of PhotoShop compatible filters of all time. Many of the filters are too complex to explain in words alone which is why desktop designers and illustrators will love Nick Clarke's visual approach. Richly illustrated in full color throughout he presents a series of work-throughs that explore how to use the filters and shows them in action.

Features Include:

Chapters devoted to each of the major KPT filters including:

- * An overview of the interface features, a series of step by step work throughs and actual examples of filters in use.
- * Work-through tutorials illustrated in full-colour.
- * Easy to follow, step-by-step, instructions that help you get the best out of KPT.
- * A complete reference illustrating the KPT filter set in action.
- * Ideal book for all PhotoShop and Painter users, young and old.
- * Filled with creative hints and tips.

A CD-ROM containing:

- * Animated examples of filters in action.
- * A Gallery of Excellence containing images created using KPT from a range of designers including Kai Krause.
- * Demo versions KPT filters (Have HSC agreed to this?)
- * Software Demos: Adobe PhotoShop 3 and Painter 3.
- * Online start-up kits from Compuserve and America Online
- * Previously unpublished KPT tips from HSC
- * Foreword by Kai Krause

Nick Clarke is Senior Lecturer of Computing and Design at University College Salford in the UK. For the past eleven years he has been a technology consultant for the design, print, pre-press and multi-media industries.

He is a regular contributor to MacUser magazine where he is the Contributing Editor for Graphic Design software. Since 1987 he has over a quarter of a million words published about Macintosh software.

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> LASER PRINTER/COPIER! STR Spotlight  
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HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY BRINGS SPACE-
SAVING PRINTERFAXCOPIER TO THE PROFESSIONAL HOME OFFICE

HP OfficeJet Packs "No-compromise" Features
into a
Three-in-one Package

PALO ALTO, Calif., Oct. 17, 1994 - Hewlett-Packard Company, the leading supplier of printers and plain-paper fax machines, today introduced the HP

OfficeJet personal printerfaxcopier, a new category of product designed specifically for professional home-office users.

The OfficeJet printerfaxcopier, priced at \$959 (U.S.), offers customers a complete office solution with functionality typically found only in more expensive products targeted at the corporate marketplace.

"HP's technical strengths in the printer and plain-paper fax markets enable us to offer customers with home offices a product that doesn't compromise one function for another," said Steven J. Gomo, general manager of HP's San Diego Division. "OfficeJet printerfaxcopier is a full-featured printer and plain-paper fax machine as well as a convenience copier.

"OfficeJet printerfaxcopier was developed based on customer requests for an integrated product that is easy to learn and manage and saves space. It helps a small office run more smoothly; there's only one print cartridge, one kind of paper and one manual for all three functions."

OfficeJet Printer Features

OfficeJet printerfaxcopier works out of the box with Windows and DOS PCs and is compatible with Macintosh computers through third-party solutions such as GDT PowerPrint. The OfficeJet printerfaxcopier uses the same printer technology as the popular HP DeskJet printer. It is designed to print clear, sharp black text with smooth, crisp edges.

This high print quality is achieved through 600 x 300 dots-per-inch (dpi) resolution with Resolution Enhancement technology (REt). REt varies the size and placement of the dots produced by the printer to smooth curves and edges on individual characters.

OfficeJet printerfaxcopier prints on plain cut-sheet paper and also supports a variety of other media types, including glossy paper and transparencies. Unlike other printers, which require manual adjustments to print envelopes, OfficeJet printerfaxcopier features an automatic sensor that ensures optimal print quality on envelopes.

The new device produces 256 grayscale levels in print mode for users who want to produce very high-quality graphics. The personal printerfaxcopier comes with 14 TrueType scaleable fonts for Windows(tm) users and six built-in typefaces for DOS users. OfficeJet printerfaxcopier comes standard with a high-speed Centronics parallel interface, which enables users to transfer print jobs from their PC 10 times faster than if the device used the more common RS-232 serial interface. The product is compatible with leading software and comes with DOS and Windows drivers in the box.

OfficeJet Fax Features

In addition to high-quality monochrome printing, OfficeJet printerfaxcopier is a full-featured plain-paper facsimile machine. With it, professional home-office users can transmit fax pages in about 10 seconds.

OfficeJet printerfaxcopier can be programmed to speed dial 65 locations, including five group locations, and automatically redial busy signals up to five times. The product also can broadcast a fax document to up to 10 locations and perform polling, a feature that allows users to call another fax and receive a transmission from it.

OfficeJet printerfaxcopier, with its 24-page memory, will receive incoming faxes into memory while printing a document. In addition, it stores incoming faxes in memory if it runs out of ink or paper. The product comes standard with a front-loading, straight-through paper path and a reliable 20-page automatic document feeder to virtually eliminate misfeeds and paper jams.

The new product can share a single telephone line with an answering machine and is equipped with Distinctive Ring detect, a feature that enables the device to respond to multiple rings to signal a fax call. This feature, available through some telephone companies, allows a user to have two telephone numbers with different rings on a single line. The product meets the CCITT/ITU Group 3 international industry standard.

OfficeJet Copier Features

Additionally, OfficeJet printerfaxcopier offers professional home-office users the benefit of a convenience copier. While not designed for large copying jobs, OfficeJet printerfaxcopier can save time and hassle by eliminating the need to go to a copy center when a few extra copies of a document are needed.

The OfficeJet printerfaxcopier's copy function also is capable of document reduction. For example, it can reduce legal-size documents to fit on 8.5-inch x 11-inch paper. For added flexibility, users can reduce a copy by as much as 70 percent of the original document. In total, seven different reduction settings are possible.

OfficeJet printerfaxcopier has a convenient, front-loading, 100-page paper tray that supports the most widely used media sizes, including letter-, legal- and A4-size paper. The new product's output tray accommodates print jobs of up to 100 pages.

The device, which prints at up to 3 pages per minute, is designed around a new user-friendly front panel that integrates printer and fax/copy features in an easy-to-read, menu-driven display. The design highlights the most commonly used fax features, enabling users to access speed dialing, auto redial, resolution and reception mode easily and quickly -- without looking up function codes.

OfficeJet printerfaxcopier is powered by a National Semiconductor NSFAX chip set and software solution designed to support multifunction products. Because the product uses HP's inkjet technology for all three functions, one print cartridge and plain paper meet all printing, faxing and copying needs.

OfficeJet printerfaxcopier is available through HP-authorized dealers and retail stores. Replaceable ink cartridges for these models are \$31.95 (U.S.) and print approximately 1,000 pages; they are available at office-supply and computer retail stores.

OfficeJet printerfaxcopier is backed by a limited, one-year Express Exchange replacement warranty. With Express Exchange, customers receive a replacement machine within one business day.

HP is the world's leading supplier of inkjet products. HP inkjet technology, which is used in a variety of products from printers and facsimile machines to plotters, was developed at HP Laboratories and HP InkJet Technology Centers.

Hewlett-Packard Company is an international manufacturer of measurement and computation products and systems recognized for excellence in quality and support. The company's products and services are used in industry, business, engineering, science, medicine and education in approximately 110 countries. HP has 97,900 employees and had revenue of \$20.3 billion in its 1993 fiscal year.

Windows is a U.S. trademark of Microsoft Corp.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

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STReport International Online Magazine is available every week for your reading pleasure on DELPHI. STReport's readers are invited to join DELPHI and become a part of an extremely friendly community of enthusiastic computer users there.

SIGNING UP WITH DELPHI

=====

Using a personal computer and modem, members worldwide access
DELPHI services via a local phone call

JOIN --DELPHI

Via modem, dial up DELPHI at 1-800-695-4002
then...

When connected, press RETURN once or twice
and...

At Password: type STREPORT and press RETURN.

DELPHI's 20/20 Advantage Plan
20 Hours for Only \$20!

Advantage Members have always enjoyed the lowest DELPHI access rates available. On the new 20/20 Advantage Plan, members receive their first 20 hours of access each month for only \$20. If you happen to meet someone online or find some other diversion, don't worry because additional usage is only \$1.80 per hour.

20/20 Advantage rates apply for access via SprintNet or Tymnet from within the continental United States during home time or via direct dial around the clock. Home Time is from 6pm to 6am weekdays. Access during business time carries a surcharge of \$9 per hour. These rates apply for most services, but note that there are some surcharged areas on DELPHI which are clearly marked with a "\$" sign.

Who is eligible to take advantage of the plan? Any DELPHI member in good standing. Applications are reviewed and subject to approval by Delphi Internet Services Corporation.

It's easy to join. If you meet the eligibility requirements, you can apply

online -- at any time -- for membership in the DELPHI 20/20 Advantage Plan. Your membership becomes active at 4 a.m. Eastern Time on the first billing day of the following month.

The \$20 charge will be billed to you at the beginning of the month to which it applies. Any portion of the 20 hours not used in any month does not carry forward into the next month.

Advantage rates may be changed with 30 days notice given online.

TRY DELPHI FOR \$1 AN HOUR!

For a limited time, you can become a trial member of DELPHI, and receive 5 hours of evening and weekend access during this month for only \$5. If you're not satisfied, simply cancel your account before the end of the calendar month with no further obligation. If you keep your account active, you will automatically be enrolled in DELPHI's 10/4 Basic Plan, where you can use up to 4 weekend and evening hours a month for a minimum \$10 monthly charge, with additional hours available at \$3.96. But hurry, this special trial offer will expire soon! To take advantage of this limited offer, use your modem to dial 1-800-365-4636. Press <RET> once or twice. When you get the Password: prompt, type IP26 and press <RET> again. Then, just answer the questions and within a day or two, you'll officially be a member of DELPHI!

DELPHI-It's the BEST Value and getting BETTER all the time!

ATARI/JAG SECTION (III)

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Dana Jacobson, Editor

> From the Atari Editor's Desk
"*****"

"Saying it like it is!"

I apologize for my "tone" last week. As you may have noticed, the "real job" has been chaotic the past few weeks and it's not getting better fast. I've been in "grouch mode" for a couple of weeks, enhanced by irregular hours, shifts, and other oddities. I'm hoping that things normalize within the next couple of weeks, so please bear with me if I seem out of sorts via my opening comments from time to time!

With that in mind, I'm going to do something which is quite out of character for me - and that's to say nothing editorially this week! So, let's just move ahead and see what's brewing this week.

Until next time...

Delphi's Atari Advantage!
TOP TEN DOWNLOADS (10/19/94)

(1) NEWDESK AND DESKTOP GUIDE	* (6) HACE NEWSLETTER
(2) HSMODA04 SERIAL PORT ACC	(7) FALCON UPDATE ISSUE 6
(3) IDEALIST 3.51	* (8) ESS-CODE V6.2
(4) MAGIC SPOOLER 1.09	* (9) E-MAIL LIST
(5) TYPE 1 CONVERTER	(10) PLAYMPEG 0.60 DEMO

* = New on list
HONORARY TOP 10

The following on-line magazines are always top downloads, frequently out-performing every other file in the databases.

ST REPORT (Current issue: STREPORT 10.42)
ATARI ONLINE (Current issue: AEO: VOLUME 3, ISSUE 12)
Look for the above files in the RECENT ARRIVALS database.

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> Falcon Toolkit STR Spotlight
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FALCON030 TOOLKIT
=====

Press Release -- October 1994

Trace Technologies is proud to introduce the F030TKIT.

Shipping date: AVAILABLE NOW!

Special price through November 15, 1994.

Plus a discount on FastPath.

F030TKIT - a 'must have' collection of utilities for ALL Falcon owners!

Do you have problems deleting folders, printing text or renaming files?

Tired of losing memory?

Need quick and easy access to a floppy disk formatter?

What about one with extensive, simple-to-use options?

Would you like to configure system parameters to your preferences?

Then have I got a package for you!

TraceTech's Falcon030 ToolKit, a demoware package by Keith Gerdes and Trace Technologies, offers several answers to those questions and more.

o What does the Falcon030 ToolKit do?

The F030TKIT is a multi utility package.

1) TOS4Trap v2 addresses changes in TOS4's GEMDOS to improve software compatibility.

2) From a co-author of DC Formatter, Trace Formatter Jr CPX gives you quick and easy access to a floppy disk formatter which has flexible options such as number of tracks, DD/HD format, faster I/O, etc.

3) NVRAM (non-volatile RAM) Configurator allows you to setup your F030's hardware and system software with simple user preference selections.

o TOS4TRAP.PRГ v2

An upgrade to the shareware program, TOS4Trap v1, the _original_ TOS4 "fix" utility which set the standard for bridging the gap of TOS4 GEMDOS compatibility.

For example: helps pre-STalker 3.03, pre-NeoDesk 4, MaxiFile, DeskManager, some GFA compiled programs and many other programs.

Accept only the best, which gets better in TOS4Trap v2. v2 also ends those memory loss blues. Simply open and close directory windows at the GEM Desktop to see what I mean.

o TRACEFMT.CPX

fka DC Formatter Jr - A CPX-based floppy disk formatter originally scheduled for release in the DC CPXtensions package.

Available options:

- 1) # of tracks - 0, 40 and 80-85
 - 2) # of sides - 1 and 2
 - 3) Sectors per track - 9, 10, 18 and 20
 - 4) Drive - A and B
 - 5) Format type - Normal and Skewed
 - 6) Volume label
- + Convenient save configuration feature.
 - + Reverse formatting for data safety.
 - + Abort feature with continue option.

o CFGNVRAM.APP

Configure various NVRAM settings used by TOS4.

Special NOTE: Contains a unique bootup setting option for TOS 4.04.

Available options:

- 1) System bootup delay - Time (0-80 seconds) [NOTE: TOS 4.04 only]
- 2) System bootup video mode - ST Low, ST High or No Change
- 3) International time format [_IDT] - 12 or 24 Hour
- 4) International date format [_IDT] - MMDDYY, DDMMYY, YYMMDD or YYDDMM
- 5) Keyboard preference [_AKP] - 8 countries
- 6) Desktop preference [_AKP] - 5 languages

Also related to NVRAM:

RESETNVR.PRG - reset your NVRAM to default configuration

DO_BOOTN.PRG - writes an executable boot sector to a floppy which will
reset the NVRAM to default configuration on bootup

Don't be locked out of your computer if your NVRAM gets messed up!

o RUN_COFF.PRG/TTP/GTP

Run a program with the 68030 cache turned OFF, restored on exit.

o And updates to a couple of 'DC Programs of the Week'.

o All programs are 100% assembly.

o Strong support from one of the oldest developers for the Atari ST
whose current product line includes Data Diet, Squish II, Data Rescue,
Load Aladdin, TOS4TRAPv1, FastPath -and soon to be released- FlexMenu
and Missouri.

o A demo version is freely available on online services.

NOTE: Some features are not available in the demo version.

++++

Purchasing the F030TKIT:

**** TOS4Trap v1 registered user notice ****

Registered users of the TraceTech shareware product, TOS4Trap v1,
can apply that paid fee toward this order. For example, if you sent
in \$5, deduct \$5 from the total owed for the F030TKIT.

[NOTE: Canadian users- please see specific F030TKIT order info below.]

As an introductory special, order BEFORE November 16, 1994 and save \$5!
Send US\$25, which includes shipping & handling.

- o Outside the U.S. - add \$5
- o For priority mail in the U.S. - add \$3

To get this discount, your letter MUST be postmarked NO LATER than
November 15, 1994.

Orders postmarked AFTER November 15, 1994:

Send US\$30, which includes shipping & handling.

- o Outside the U.S. - add \$5
- o For priority mail in the U.S. - add \$3

If you haven't picked up the new FastPath utility yet, it is ONLY \$10
when ordered with the F030TKIT.

And not to forget MORE MONEY SAVING discounts, contact TraceTech for
special direct order prices on our commercial products.

Texas residents must add 8.25% sales tax.

Please make payment by check (issued by a U.S. bank), U.S. funds
money order (drawn on a U.S. bank), or postal money order.

[NOTES: GENie gifts of time are not accepted.

And no credit card order capability.]

Payable to:

Trace Technologies or Keith Gerdes

Send to:

Trace Technologies [F030TKIT]
PO Box 711403
Houston, TX 77271-1403

What else do you get for your investment?

- > Tech support and bug fix updates!
- > Plus special discounts on future products.

==== Canadian users ====

In order to save you money and offer you quicker turnaround, I started a registration service with Howard Carson, a member of the Toronto Atari Federation User Group. Howard will take care of processing all Canadian orders- including user registration, money transactions and software distribution.

Please note, tech support and all other support will still be the sole responsibility of TraceTech.

F030TKIT orders before November 16, 1994:

The Canadian registration fee is \$40 Cdn, total amount.
To get this discount, your letter MUST be postmarked no later than November 15, 1994.

F030TKIT orders after November 15, 1994:

The Canadian registration fee is \$48 Cdn, total amount.

If you haven't picked up the new FastPath utility yet, it is ONLY \$16 Cdn when ordered with the F030TKIT.

You can contact Howard for MORE MONEY SAVING discounts on TraceTech commercial products.

Send all Canadian registrations to:

Howard Carson
#601-2904 St. Clair Ave. East
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M4B 1N7

And make all Canadian payments to:

Howard Carson

Howard accepts personal cheques and current account cheques drawn on Canadian banks and trusts, as well as MO's, drafts and cash. He will try to service registrants within 72 hours (for cash, M.O and draft/certified cheque customers), and within 10 days for personal cheque customers. '72 hours' and '10 days', refer to the actual elapsed period before an item is mailed/registered/applied (as appropriate).

==== Other currencies ====

If you wish to setup a distribution point for other currencies, please contact me.

++++

Customer support is available via:

Phone: (713)771-8332 [weekdays 1PM-5PM Central Time]

- o Each Object may have it's own color palette
- o Number of Objects is limited only by memory
- o 4 different light source type, up to 21 lights in a scene.
- o 3 different camera types. Maneuver the camera anywhere in a scene.
- o Graphical object, light and camera positioning editor.
- o View and save rendered images as 512 color Spectrum SPC files, 2 to 256 color GIF files, or true color (24bit) Targa files at any resolution.
- o Simple animation capabilities, or render CTL script animations (Cyber Control v.1.1 required for CTL animations) or use the new ANM-LINK (Relativity) to render Chronos Key-frame animations with morphs and cycles.
- o Several tutorial and sample objects included
- o Runs in any 80 column color or monochrome resolution
- o Full math co-processor support
- o Plus much much more!

There is a lot more to the new Phoenix, especially the new powerful Color Spline to give you close to absolute texture control. Lexicor Software will soon come with a special disk of over hundreds of new textures for use in Phoenix, but here is a small list of the Textures available straight away in the Phoenix 2.0 disk.

- Wood
 - User definable with grain color and width, Object Texture Ratio, view
- Marble
 - User definable with color bands, turbulence, base color, grain, view, Object Texture Ratio and more
- Image Mapping
 - Load SPC, TGA,GIF or FLC/X animations to map in S map (Plane, Cube, Cylinder or Sphere), O Map (Reflection, Obj Normal, Obj Center, S Map Norm), Tiling (single or tiled, morph lock, view control, turbulence and Mask (no mask, foreground or opaque mask) on the object of your choice with your own created image.

On the Internet you may contact us on staff@lexicor.com or support@lexicor.com, optionally you may also email Lexicor@world.std.com

On COMPUSEVE contact 75300,763 or 73073,142 or visit us in topic 11 (LEXICOR) on atariarts or atariven (type go atariarts).

GENIE contact LEXICOR or Y.SIU or visit us at the GRAPHICS RT on page 1415 (type m1415) in Category 22 (LEXICOR SUPPORT) or just type GRAPHICS to enter the forum.

On DELPHI contact LEXICOR or LEXICORWORLD or visit us in the Atari Advantage Area (type go com atari).

This is an official announcement from LEXICOR SOFTWARE CORPORATION

Lexicor Software is extremely proud to announce the release of RAYSTART in the U.S.A. It comes, naturally completely in English and is one of the best Raytracers around on the Atari Platform.

Check out some of the Raytraced Images of RAYSTART in our Lexicor Graphics Library.

Ray tracing allows you to produce near-photorealistic images and animation. The ray tracer can accurately model such lighting effects as shadow, reflection and refraction, magnification, mirrors, and textured surfaces.

It is a lovely addition to our family of Graphics Software. Perfect for use in Presentation, Multimedia, Animation maybe and definitely DTP.

It has a built in Editor very similar to CAD-3D2 from Antic and is 3D2 file Compatible which means that you can use your Cyber Models (3D2) with it.

I will quote Godefroy de Maupeou from the French Magazine ST-Mag.
(translated from French into English)

"Raystart 1.0 is a big surprise. For a price that is usually for small Utilities, it is an extremely powerful Raytracer and very easy to use!"

Godefroy de Maupeou

In the same article he said:

"Raystart is extremely fast, judge for yourself. A Sphere in 160x120 mode TIF with the raytracing option, a mirror of 100% and one solar light takes 22 Seconds, without anti-aliasing, 57 Seconds with anti-aliasing set to 1 (Four rays per Point rather than one)."

He however failed to mention the testing conditions, as RAYSTART v.1.0 has no Math Co-Processor support these times are extremely fast for any raytracer, may it be for a TT, Falcon or just a plain ST.

So how do I make a 3D Design and Raytrace it?

- Load or make an Object
- Confirm the Object for Output
- Choose a Color for your Object
- Choose a Texture
- Choose it's attributes (when a ray of light hit's th Object)
- Position the light sources
- Position the Camera
- Select the method of calculation
- While an object is raytraced you have the option to interrupt it and continue later on

Positioning the Camera can be done using either a Coordinate System just like PHOENIX or a point and click interface like CHRONOS.

Parallel, Point, Ambient and Spot light sources

Additional options for Interpolation, Mirror, Transparency, Convex, Reflections, Shine, Texture, density, anti-aliasing and more.

Functional and Analytical Objects.

Intuitive Point and click Graphical User Interface, very easy to use. The Textures Menu have four different types of color deviations (if that is the right word): Block, Rings, Spherical and Striped. Each one of these Textures can be parametrised with a dozen other features, including the random functions.

I won't go into detail of each those other functions as they are too specific.

Distortion Raster

The built in Editor allows you to change or distort a previously defined.

Object via a mathematical function which can be user-defined.

System Requirements:

Any Atari ST, STE, Mega, TT or Falcon.

Price: 99.00 U\$D

And from a happy Nova user...

Newsgroup: comp.sys.atari.st
From: D.SMITH@genie.geis.com (Dave Smith)
Subject: Happy Lexicor/Nova User

D.SMITH200 [Dave]

To All Concerned:

This is a bit of testimony to the excellent support received by this Lexicor user:

I originally bought my Nova 16M VME at the '93 CAF. The card performed beautifully until last month, when I booted up and was looking at a rather pleasant blue screen with scattered white pixels.

At that point, Lexicor was going through some transitions, moving it's support offices to their present Boston location. Rather than ship the board to the original Berkeley location, I thought I'd wait for the dust to settle before sending the card in for the needed repairs.

Then a thought came to mind: Lexicor was going to be present at the CAF in Bridgeport on the weekend of the 27th... So why not take the 1&1/2 hr. drive and see to it personally.

Well, the Lexicor booth was a very busy place, with the North American Debut of the Medusa, and the rest of the product line being demo'ed.

In spite of the confusion with buyers and onlookers (and the hook-up problems for the VCR and the subsequent "disappearance" of their demo tape)... Yat took the time to swap out the board for one of the sale units, and sent me home with a brand new board, plugged into my original interface... with the promise of a free exchange for a totally new board if things failed.

I hooked it back up, booted up, and things were fine for about an hour... then the original problem re-surfaced.

I gave Yat a call Monday, and he stepped me through a debug of the interface. It worked.

Suffice it to say, I'm sitting here with a NEW Nova card, debugged interface, at no charge to me. And we're talking about a board that was 9 months out of warranty. Thanks, Yat!

I'm currently playing with the filters in DA's Picture. Look for uploads. And look no further for great support.

Dave Smith

Jaguar Section
=====

"ALIEN VS PREDATOR"

Nothing else need be said!

> From the Editor's Controller - Playin' it like it is!
"=====

It's official as of today, but some of us have already managed to acquire Alien vs Predator and logged a number of hours (days?) playing it! I haven't had a chance to really get involved with the game yet, but I hope to finally have a peaceful weekend with the lights down low and the sound up - this game is wonderful!! The Jaguar areas on Compuserve and the Usenet have been deluged with AvP comments. I've seen very few "serious" negative comments about the game. Just about everyone is extremely happy with it. Rebellion has a real winner on their hands, as does Atari! If you don't have it yet, find it and get it - you will not be sorry.

We're feverishly in the process of putting together two reviews of AvP for an upcoming issue. The game is not one that can be finished in a few hours or days; which is a real plus for players. We want to really want to thoroughly explore this game to be able to provide you with a comprehensive look. We know you'll appreciate it.

We know you're all anxious to get on with the game, so we'll move right along ourselves. Watch your back!!

Until next time...

> Jaguar Catalog STR InfoFile - What's currently available, what's

[illegible]

coming out.

Current Available Titles ~~~~~

CAT #	TITLE	MSRP	DEVELOPER/PUBLISHER
J9000	Cybermorph	\$59.99	Atari Corp.
J9006	Evolution:Dino Dudes	\$49.99	Atari Corp.
J9005	Raiden	\$49.99	FABTEK, Inc/Atari Corp.
J9001	Trevor McFur/ Crescent Galaxy	\$49.99	Atari Corp.
J9010	Tempest 2000	\$59.95	Llamasoft/Atari Corp.
J9028	Wolfenstein 3D	\$69.95	id/Atari Corp.
JA100	Brutal Sports FtBall	\$69.95	Telegames
J9008	Alien vs. Predator	\$69.99	Rebellion/Atari Corp.

Available Soon ~~~~~

CAT #	TITLE	MSRP	DEVELOPER/PUBLISHER
	CatBox	\$49.95	ICD
	CatBox +	\$69.95	ICD

Hardware and Peripherals ~~~~~

CAT #	TITLE	MSRP	MANUFACTURER
J8001	Jaguar (complete)	\$249.99	Atari Corp.
J8904	Composite Cable	\$19.95	
J8901	Controller/Joypad	\$24.95	Atari Corp.
J8905	S-Video Cable	\$19.95	

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> Industry News STR Game Console NewsFile - The Latest Gaming News!
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-/- Nintendo Patent Suit Dismissed -/-

A federal judge in Los Angeles has dismissed a patent infringement lawsuit filed by inventor Edward Gussin against Nintendo of America Inc.

U.S. District Judge Lourdes Baird of the Central District of California dismissed the case on five separate and independent grounds, ruling in response to Nintendo's motion that Nintendo's Super NES video game system, when used with the Mario Paint computer drawing and painting accessory, did not infringe Mr. Gussin's patent.

"Judge Baird's decision to dismiss Gussin's case, along with Nintendo's victory against National Semiconductor earlier this year, are evidence of the growing trend in which the federal courts are willing to weed out meritless patent infringement cases prior to trial," observes Nintendo counsel John J. Kirby. "In light of the complexity of patent cases and the difficulty of making complex technologies and concepts of patent law understandable to jurors, courts are becoming more vigilant against letting meritless claims go to trial. The willingness of courts to apply the law to undisputed facts at an early

new Alien Vs. Predator video game for the Jaguar 64-bit game system.

I have obtained permission to set aside a limited number of these posters for our VERY patient online Jaguar gamers. Here's the deal... Listen CAREFULLY!

While they last in my hot little (actually medium size) hands, you may have one poster FREE! There is a catch I'll mention in a moment, but this poster is real cool AND is FREE just because everyone has been real patient and we like your support and if you like your poster, you'll show your friends and they'll buy an Alien Vs. Predator cartridge because you told them to. Whew!

The catch?!... Oh yea. The poster is carefully rolled in a special mailing tube and ready to be slapped with your address. All we ask is that you prepay Atari's minimum shipping and handling fee to cover our expenses of the tube, label, postage, etc. That fee is only \$4.95 each poster. The posters are already in tubes, so I cannot double up posters and, besides, that wouldn't be fair so don't ask for more than one per mailing tube please!

This is the EXACT same poster you will see in stores soon and it's certainly going to become a collector's item.

To get yours, send \$4.95 (\$8.95 U.S. funds for Canada) in the EXACT amount. Payment may be received in Money order, check, MasterCard or Visa.

I cannot ship out of North America. Other countries should see what promotions Atari U.K. may be devising OR make arrangements with someone they know in North America to forward it to them.

REQUESTS BY EMAIL with CREDIT CARD:

75300.1267@compuserve.com

REQUESTS BY BBS with CREDIT CARD:

CATscan @ 209/239-1552

REQUESTS BY MAIL:

Don's Really Nifty FREE AvP Poster Deal
P.O. Box 61657
Sunnyvale, CA 94089-1657

(offer good while quantities last - poster offer is independent from other offers and cannot be combined with other transactions)

NOTES TO SYSOPS: Please help spread this offer. Put it in banners if possible. Please help make sure all members of your forum are exposed to the offer ASAP.

Sb: Crank the Beach Boys!
Fm: Steve Watkins 74241,3001
To: all

Catchy subject, eh? It relates to my latest 'Net Surfin' Safari...

Here's all the rumors that are printed to fit. :) (From Robert Jung who claims to have gotten it from someone inside Atari. Since this was on the 'net and that reaches a couple billion people, I think I'll re-post it here. I'm hoping no Atari heads will roll over this... seriously. I'm not one to START rumors, but I'm not above passing them on. :)

Nothing new, but supposedly the release dates are more solid.

Here's what he says:

" The following list of upcoming Jaguar games release dates dropped into my greedy mitts from sources fairly close inside Atari. Please note that (1) it is an INCOMPLETE list, and (2) these represent best guesses, not actual commitments. Take it with a grain of salt, but I think most of this list is dead on:

GAME TITLE	EXPECTED DATE
=====	=====
Air Cars	December '94
Arena Football League	1Q 1995
Assault	1Q 1995
Barkley Basketball	2Q 1995
Battlemorph	December '94
BattleWheels	1Q 1995
Blue Lightning	December '94
Brett Hull Hockey	2Q 1995
Bubsy	December '94
Cannon Fodder	November '94
Checkered Flag	November '94
Club Drive	November '94
Creature Shock	1Q 1995
'Dactyl Joust	2Q 1995
Demolition Man	January '95
Doom	November '94
Double Dragon V	December '94
Dragon's Lair	1Q 1995
Dragon	November '94
Dungeon Depths	1Q 1995
Fight For Life	1Q 1995
Flashback	December '94
Hardball III	2Q 1995
Highlander (CD)	1Q 1995
Horrorscope	1Q 1995
Iron Soldier	November '94
Jack Nicklaus Golf (CD)	2Q 1995
Kasumi Ninja	November '94
Rage Rally	1Q 1995
Rayman	December '94
Robinson's Requiem	1Q 1995
Soccer Kid	1Q 1995
Space War	December '94
Star Raiders 2000	1Q 1995
Syndicate	November '94
Theme Park	November '94
Tiny Toon Adventures	1Q 1995
Troy Aikman NFL Football	December '94

Ultimate Brain Games	December '94
Ultra Vortex	December '94
White Men Can't Jump	1Q 1995
Zool 2	November '94

And now, to REALLY make you tear your hair out...

Remember the big secrecy Atari had over FIGHT FOR LIFE? Well, I think I also unearthed the names of some of Atari's other top-secret projects. I could spill the beans now, but that'd drive the folks at Atari nuts and probably get me into some hot water. But I don't like saying something without proof, so...

So, as a compromise, here's a censored list of the they-exist-but-you-haven't-even-heard-of-them-yet Jaguar games that are in the pipeline. Any Atari insiders who want to fill in the blanks and tell me how (in)accurate I am are welcome to do so...

GAME TITLE	EXPECTED DATE
=====	=====
B-----t	1Q 1995
D-----t (CD)	2Q 1995
H---r S----e	1Q 1995
V-l D-----e S----g	December '94
a-d S-----g	

(Rob disavows all responsibility if something doesn't pan out. Hey, this is grist for the RUMOR mills, kids)"

There you have it. Now, here are some strange guesses from other 'netters:

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" >=====
>D-----t (CD)      2Q 1995
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Deathknight fits, but I have no idea.

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>H---r S----e      1Q 1995
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Based on what Travis said, Hover Strike

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>V-l D-----e S----g      December '94
>a-d S-----g
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This must be Val D'Issere (or something like that :) Skiing and Snowboarding. I think it's out for the SNES too, but I'm not sure. "

I'm going to put my vote in saying the Val D'Issere thingy is correct, since I can't fathom anything else fitting. And Dactyl Joust fits for the D-----T CD entry. As for the others? Who knows. Only the Shadow!

Steve

Fm: Steve Horn 74461,637

Next up for Atari (I got this from Garry) is Club Drive (about 2 to 3 weeks) then Bruce lee followed almost immediately by Doom and then KN and Checkered Flag.

Hey there friends. Y'know, this part of the column is always the hardest to write. I mean, what can I tell you? That the Atari market is alive and well?? That developers are raking in big bucks?? That we've got a long and rosy future with our present machines?? I think not. Now, before some of you decide to get in my face and complain that I'm bashing the Atari scene, let me finish. I intend to continue using my STe and Stacy until they die. They do everything I need them to do. They're fast enough for my word processing needs, they telecommunicate at 14,400 baud, they play all of my favorite old games, and they even play those cool sound files in MicroSoft WAV format that sysops and DOS/Windows users keep telling me that you need an Intel-based machine for. I remember the first time that WAV files became an issue: CompuServe posted a song by Aerosmith in WAV format and, before letting you download the file, asked you several times if you had:

- 1) An IBM compatible computer,
- 2) MicroSoft Windows, and
- 3) a 8 or 16 bit sound card.

Well, I have none of those things, but I knew that my trusty STe or Stacy could play the file. All I needed was a \$15.00 program by DMJ Software called SoundLab. Since I had SoundLab, I went ahead and downloaded the Aerosmith tune. I kicked it up and, whaddaya know, the song came through like it was intended from the beginning to be played on an ST. Yes folks, instead of going out and spending several thousand dollars on one of those other machines, I did a bit of looking around and found that my STe and Stacy could do what I wanted them to. When they stop doing what I need them to, then I'll think about jumping ship. I'm having too much fun to even think about switching right now. And I love being able to tick off those Windoze snobs once in a while.

You'd be surprised at the amount of interest, the questions, answers, and the facts that surround our favorite machine. So, let's take a look around CompuServe, shall we?

From the Atari Computing Forums
=====

Simon Moore asks about using his ST to access the Internet:

"Is anybody accessing the Internet in England through Demon and using the software that you can get from them (for the Atari range of computers)?...

I want to be able to read the news groups and generally use the Demon service like I use Compuserve with Quickcis. Any Ideas ?"

Sysop Bob Retelle tells Simon:

"Hmm.. I've never done that part myself... I've only used demon to download files via ftp. I usually just read the newsgroups here on CompuServe..."

On a related subject, Joseph Zecchin tells us:

"I have an interest of using my STE to send and receive E-Mail. I am having problems on Internet. Where can I get some help?"

Bob tells Joseph:

"There is a whole Forum for Internet help... just GO INTERNET right here on CompuServe."

John Masters asks:

"Can you use QuickCIS to send e-mail to an INET address and if so how? I've been trying and keep getting a message back from the mailbase to the effect of >>I don't understand the address To: INTERNET: xxxxxx@xxxxxx.xx

Also, if it is possible (perhaps I'm being particularly dense today), will the return address be correct. i.e. will I get a reply?"

Sysop Bob tells John that he's...

"Just guessing here, but if the address is really in the form you listed in your message, try omitting the space after the INTERNET:

Also, yes.. your return address should be correct, so the recipient can just do a reply and you should receive it."

John tells Bob:

"I tried omitting the space but it didn't work. Ended up writing the message on WP and uploading it manually, then SENDING it, typing the address in when requested. that worked. got a reply within 30 mins. Better than Royal Mail and nearly as good as Wells Fargo. <grin>"

Bob tells John:

"Great to hear you got it working..!

It's really amazing how that can work... I was exchanging mail about Dungeon Master with people all over the world, and I would sometimes receive a reply before I logged off.."

John continues:

"It works through an automated mail server. I don't know if you know about this, it's probably old hat to you, but I've just come accross a way to access the INTERNET using solely e-mail. And that includes using gophers, Archie, Veronica, WWW the whole kit and caboodle. It's a little slower than direct access but for a dodderly old codger like me that's not a minus and until Compuserve get doorway into the NET it's the only way in (I think)."

Bob adds some more info to the mix:

"According to CompuServe A-Z you go >INTERNET:[Internet address] I don't use it that often, but tested it first to my Cix address and it seemed to work. Remember your CIS address is also accessible through the Internet by going [CIS ID]@compuserve.com only you need to change the comma to a stop. Try e-mailing yourself to test it."

On the subject of telecommunications, Jon Sanford posts:

"I am using Flash 2 but not the last up grade. Our local CIS connect just alowed us to connect at 9600. * Wonderfull * But now I cant get the downloading part of Flash 2 to work?"

Albert Dayes of Atari Explorer Online Magazine asks Jon a few questions to narrow down the problem:

"Are you using the CIS B protocol? Also is your terminal emulation set for vidtex?"

Jon tells Albert:

I have tryed X, CIS B others.. My terminal is probably TTY. What is bothering me is ..nothing has changed from when it worked at 2400 bps except changing to 9600bps.

Nothing happens when I go to the down/up load menu & change choices there. This is when CIS is waiting for me to get in the right mode to receive."

Albert tells Jon:

"I think someone mentioned (maybe John T. of Missionware) that CIS has different settings for the different baud rates. So you would have to reconfigure it for the particular baud rate you use. In this case 9600 baud."

John Trautschold, of the aforementioned Missionware Software, tells both Albert and Jon:

"The last I checked, CIS maintains *separate* user options for each baud rate you connect at. You've probably got your CISuser options set to Vidtex and CIS B+ for 2400 baud operations, but you may need to reset those options for 9600 baud. Type GO OPTIONS to check your settings.

Other than that, there's no reason why F2, any version, wouldn't do B+ uploads or downloads here. I'm currently online at 14400 and B+ transfers work just peachie!

Let us know if you have any more problems."

Jon, now a happy camper, tells John:

"I didn't know that, thanks ...I love it when it is so simple!"

Jon Oliver asks for help:

"I'll keep this brief. I'm a software developer that's looking for some quick and dirty answers about an Atari MegaST. It appears that you're a proficient Atari user. Can I shoot you some quick questions?

- 1) How can I cheaply and easily obtain a simple shareware terminal package?
- 2) Can I download one from CompuServe somewhere?
- 3) If yes to #2, How do I get this file from Win/MSDOS to the Atari?
- 4) Where, in general, is a good resource for burgeoning Atari users?

This information is of little personal relevance to me, but there's a 12-year old boy thirsting to get in on the technological world. I thank you for your time and effort.

Postscript: A little factual information about myself. I'm a 27-year-old male physicist, working in Peoria, IL. I'm a Mac head at heart, use IBM's routinely, and wish I knew more about Ataris. Thanks again for the time..."

Sysop Jim Ness tells Jon:

"There are several [telecom packages] in Library 2 here (Telecommunications Library)..."

The Atari machine will read MSDOS disks, as long as they are formatted for similar drives. For instance, if the Atari has a 720k 3.5" drive, you have to format the MSDOS disk for that size drive...

This forum should suffice [as a resource], and there are still BBSs around the country which support Atari machines."

Albert Dayes of Atari Explorer Online Magazine adds:

"There is a shareware terminal package called STORM and probably a few others in the library. The disk format on the Atari is based on the IBM filesystem to a large degree. So you can format a 720K (3.5 inch) disk on the IBM and then use it to move files back and forth."

Timothy Rollins asks:

"Does anyone know where I can get a Midimate for my Atari 8 bit computer?"

I have no Midi software or hardware. I am interested in Midi. Any suggestions?"

Mike Mortilla tells Timothy:

"If anybody on CIS has it, it'll probably be here, but I wouldn't hold my breath!

But the news ain't all bad... It's not unusual to see used STs for cheap around here and you might be able to update the whole system!"

Sysop Bob Retelle tells Timothy:

"I think Mike might have the best idea... used STs are showing up all the time pretty inexpensively, and they not only have the MIDI interface built in, they also have fairly well supported MIDI applications available.

The MIDImate interface was a very expensive and almost non-supported curiosity. You'd be completely on your own as far as software and compatibility with anything else in the world.

(As a bonus, the ST comes with at least 4 times the memory and double the screen size, not to mention a much faster processor and far better software availability overall..)"

Robert Aries tells Timothy:

"I'll tell ya, I always hate it when I post a question on CIS and someone answers me by telling me to ditch whatever it is I'm looking to buy or upgrade and *buy something else*!! <vbgt>

In this case, though, I have to agree with everyone here! Used ST's are getting real cheap these days. Not only that but my personal favorite sequencer program, Dr. T's Omega, has seen its price drop from ~\$350 to \$59!! I don't think I'm going out on a limb by saying that this program will blow away any midi software you could find for the 8-bit Atari. Of course if you want to spend more there are other great seq. & notation programs for the Atari.

BTW, do you actually know that you can FIND any midi software for your 8-bit??"

John McCarthy posts:

"My quasar HD (1gig) doesn't respond to the Falcon when booting up. I was told it came pre-formatted and terminated. The i.d is set to 0 as it should be since its the only SCSI 2 device connected to the port. Before I take it back to the dealer, who is 45 min. away, I'm hoping someone in this forum may have a saving suggestion. I hope its just the cable but when I walk into a computer store they tell me they know nothing about SCSI 2 and wouldn't know how to test it. Am I missing something obvious in the connection procedure? Has anybody had any trouble with the Falcon's SCSI 2 port? I'd be grateful for any help."

Robert Aries tells John:

"I'm not really the right person for this, but I'll try to help. I take it the disk WAS working and then failed? Is this your boot disk? What software are you using to access the HD: Atari, ICD, or another brand?

I use ICD software; they have a program called ICDBOOT that you can run from a floppy when the hard drive goes out. With this I can mount the hard drive and write an auto-boot sector on it. Once, I believe that this sector got scrambled because my HD was no longer recognized. Running ICDBOOT and re-writing it solved the problem."

John tells Robert:

"I logged on and saw your kind reply to my hard drive problem and logged off to try it out. Besides I.D 0 (which seems to be the # the driver(?) looks for, I tried #1 and then #6(I assume that would be the chains last # if I had other devices) but it didn't work. I'm taking it back along with the Falcon to get them both checked out. I need a RAM upgrade anyway. I'm sure I'll get it back ready to run whatever the problem is."

Albert Dayes tells John:

"For SCSI-2 cables it is best to ask for one for a Sun SPACE workstation. Then most dealers understand about SCSI-2 cables. If you change the SCSI ID to a different number (ie 1-6) do you get the same result?"

Robert adds:

"[ICD's] ICDBOOT program can be set to scan every SCSI number. When in doubt, you just run that program off a floppy and it will mount any SCSI drive. If the drive isn't recognized then, it means there's a problem with the cable or the drive itself."

You still haven't told us what software you use to boot with (or I haven't caught it if you did) so it's hard to help. To the best of my knowledge, you must *configure* your boot software to recognize a new drive...it doesn't happen automatically!

And yes, I believe that a HD would be recognized even if it weren't formatted; as far as termination, that's probably a different story. Incorrect termination screws up the data that travels to & from the drive; that could definitely cause problems that would account for what you're seeing. Generally, the first & last SCSI device on a chain must be terminated."

John tells Robert:

"The only thing I have is a file called shdriver.sys which seems to address the internal HD, a Conner 85mg. On the language disk that came with the Falcon there is a prg. that places this shdriver.sys file in the boot drive C: None of the prgs. in the language disk have given me any options concerning A SCSI device. There is nothing called ICDBOOT. I doubleclicked the shdriver file and then clicked on SHOW and besides the usual weird symbols there was first a warning which read: Warning You are using an unofficial ROM release of the operating system. This driver may not work correctly with it. Files on your hard disk may be damaged." Following some more lettering there appears the same message that appears when I normally boot up, "Doing programmed I/O for IDE Loading... ATARI Hard Disk Driver AHDI 6.04 Apr. 8 1993 IDE Devices: SCSI Devices: Unit 0: not responding"

I clicked the SHOW of this file a second time and after IDE DEvices:, It had ACSI Devices:. I left and then clicked a third time and after Unit 0: Not Responding, it said something about " SCSI no Identification." Upon booting up the message after IDE Devices, is always :Conner Peripherals 85mg (something like that), That's the internal HD with which I have no problem. I should add that when booting up, the part of the message that reads "SCSI Devices: Unit 0: not responding" has always come up, even before I got the SCSI HD. That warning about the unofficial ROM o.s. bothers me. In the Cubase manual there is mention of Falcons manufactured before April(?) 1993 may have problem recording digital audio. What does that have to do with the SCSI HD not responding, though? Is my o.s the culprit? Do I need a different driver file perhaps? I saved up for a whole year after buying the Falcon for Cubase Audio and a fast 1 gig HD. For this??!!! Hopefully its just something I missed or the cable, etc. Anyway, thanks again for your help."

Carl Barron jumps into the discussion and adds:

"SHDRIVER.SYS... that's Atari's Hard Disk Driver. There should be a program on your floppies AHDI.PRg, THIS will load the driver from floppy. If the driver file shdriver.sys is munged you get a lot of problems like you describe. I use a TT but the driver software is similar, if not identical. Try AHDI.PRg if that works, then rename the driver file on the HD and run install.prg to write a new one from the floppy to the hard disk. Then 'maybe' the problem is gone... Cable problems are a possibility."

John tells Carl:

"I tried that but the hinstall.prg offered only drive partitions

c,d,e,or f of my internal hard drive. I did create an icon :g but the computer says there is no HD :g. I'm beginning to think that shdriver.sys is des designed to drive only the internal disk that came with this Falcon. Perhaps I need a different driver. In any case I'll try what you suggest once more just to make sure."

Carl gives John something else to try:

"If the drive does not exist when the software is loaded, either by auto booting, or ahdi.prg after a floppy boot, it does not 'exist'. I have a soon to be replaced 30 meg supra on my TT that sometimes 'does not exist' cables are screwed in and original, go figure.

At least the icd stuff, if needed [apparently will be so] will not drive you to the poor house, completely....

The AHDI.prg I am talking about should write what it is on the screen with no windows, and proceed to attempt to load shdriver.sys from the floppy, nothing else. HDX contains the formatter, partitioner,bad sector finder. Hisninstall should be the auto boot installer. HDX,HINSTALL are gem based. Ahdi.prg is really an auto folder program, but it will work from the desktop."

Robert Aries tells John:

"As others have told you, your best bet is to get the ICD software instead (it's comercial, 3rd party software; that's why you don't have ICDBOOT or HDUTILS.PRG on your system). Until you do, you may be able to get things going if you have the Atari driver software (AHDI.PRG). I believe Carl Barron's reply mentions how to use that.

BTW, when I was using the Atari HD software on my system, I got the same "Unit 0 not responding" message when booting from my Megafile 30. This is NORMAL; I believe it's because the message refers to SCSI devices, and the Megafile is an RLL drive. In your case, your internal drive is IDE, but the same concept applies. (Someone please jump in here if I'm wrong...)."

John posts his findings from runnning AHDI "One last time":

"...AHDI.PRG gave me a SCSI menu Unit 0, Unit1,etc. but next to all of them it said not responding. I pressed OK anyway (to format) and the prg. told me to check all connections so at least its been narrowed down to that. Faulty cables or faulty SCSI port. Frank Heller's message above addresses another problem I'm going to have even after I get the cable and/or port straightened out. I'll get those utilities and nip that one in the bud."

Frank Heller tells John:

"Every problem you've described gets solved by the ICD utilities. Get the program. It'll be the best 49 bucks you spend on the Falcon. I had to make a mod on the Falcon that added a chip and some jumpers to solve an early problem that the Falcons had dealing with digital audio. All of the recent Falcons are supposed to have this fixed. If your Falcon is less than 6 months old, you're probably OK. Since you're using CAF I'm going to recommend a couple of additional programs to make your life easier. Diamond Edge by Oregon Research, WARP 9 by Codehead Technologies and Diamond Back 3 by Oregon Research. Edge is a very robust Defragging prgram (it does other stuff but its main gig is

defragging) This will make audio files generated by CAF to eventually play back more efficiently. WARP 9 is a screen accelerator. CAF really taxes the processor and things can look pretty slow. This program helps bunches. Diamond Back 3 is a data backup system. CAF comes with utility to back up to regular audio DAT's. This program is for everything else. Bob Luneski (the author of DB3) tells me he's working on a backup routine for CAF within the DB3 shell. We'll have to wait and see on that one. My basic advice is: stop screwing around with AHDI. This will only drive you nuts. Get the ICD utilities. All of the above mentioned programs are Falcon compatible...and work great. ICD, Oregon Research and Code head Technologies all have forums in the ATARIVEN section. Leave messages there for information. Browse their libraries for info and download it...or find out if the dealer who sold you the Falcon carries their products."

John reports on the resolution to his problem:

"I was able to reach a dealer today who had the ICD instock. I sped over and back and I'm sure you know the result.OUTSTANDING!!!!It identified the drive, the make,partitions, etc.I cant thank you enough!!!!!!..."

ICD utilities solved the driver problem. The support from people like you in this forum has been nothing short of excellent!I was going nuts!!"

Steve Peters tells us:

"I'm running my Falcon030 in my production studio. The hard drive constantly whirring away is driving me crazy! Is there some sort of external keybaord I can attach to the Falcon so I can put it under a table or in another room? That way I'd just have the keyboard, mouse and monitor in the studio and not have to worry about the noise from the hard drive."

Albert Dayes tells Steve:

"There is a rackmount case for the Falcon from Wizztronics which would probably do something similar for what you need to do..."

Frank Heller tells Steve:

"I had the same problem in my studio. First off, more noise actually comes from the Falcons cooling fan. The rest is from the HD. My solution? I removed the fan. This made the unit heat up from the HD...so I unplugged that and now boot from my 1.2gig ext. HD. ICD software required for this BTW. Works for me. No problems in over a year..."

Robert Aries tells Steve and Frank:

"A while ago I bought a 21 meg floptical drive to use as a backup for my hard drive and as storage for my Peavey SP sample playback module. I now use it as my MAIN hard drive--no fan, no hard drive spinning constantly, no NOTHING. Pure silence in my music studio! (My hard drive is a Megafile 30--The drive with the world's loudest fan <grin>!)."

Frank tells Robert:

Robert tells Frank:

Now, it's actually WEIRD to be using my computer with no fan or disk noise at all!"

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

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> A "Quotable Quote"           "The Rude Awakening"  
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